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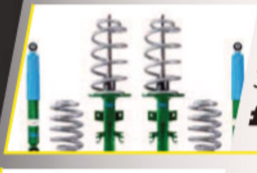

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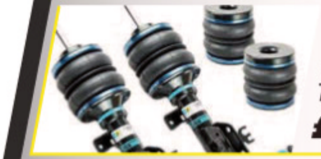

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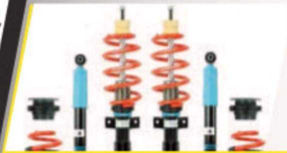

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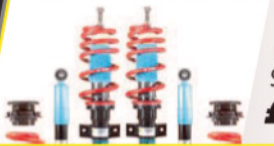

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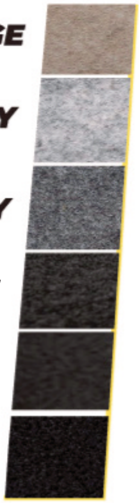

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SHOW BUSINESS…

Hello and welcome to issue 131 of VWt magazine. You may have noticed we've gone a bit bigger in the pages department this month, and that's because this issue is our show season special. A kind of what's hot and happening for the year ahead. We take a look at what killer mods you need to build a show winning van, the freshest wheels of the year and we also check out some awesome drive-away awnings for any budget.

And, if you're a bit brassic, thanks to your money pit - or the fact you need to remortgage your house to pay for energy bills - you can check out our '50 Nifty Mods For Under £50(ish) feature. Proving you can still make some magnificent mods to your Transporter without breaking the bank.

Of course, there's all the usual news, products and general tomfoolery and a line-up of feature vans so great we think they'd clean up the trophies at any van show on the planet. Talking of great shows, it's not long until the VWt Festival hits the Kent County Showground on the 14th – 16th July to celebrate all things Transporter. Give a follow to @vwtfestival on Facebook and Instagram to be kept up-to-date with the latest news and show features.

Until next time, enjoy the issue!

Glenn

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THIS MONTH I HAVE BEEN MOSTLY…

Getting… wet waiting for show vans at VoWo

Letting… someone cut a hole in my roof

Not… fancying a tin of cock

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VWt
FIVE 'N' KICKIN'
A VERY NICE VAN!
RESIST THE LIFT!
KIT HOT
RETRO

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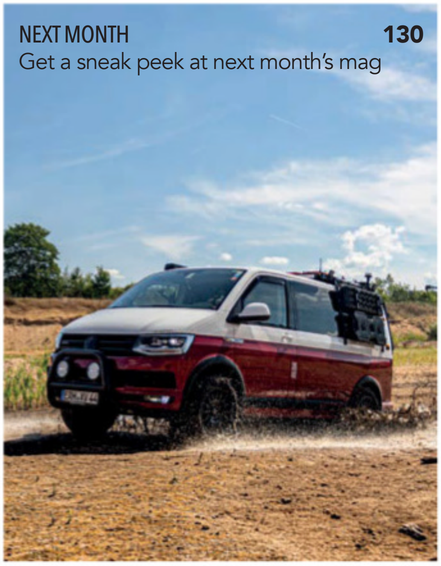

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VWt NEXT MONTH

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Words **Gordie Wollacott** Photography **Andrew Thompson**

RESEARCH PARTY

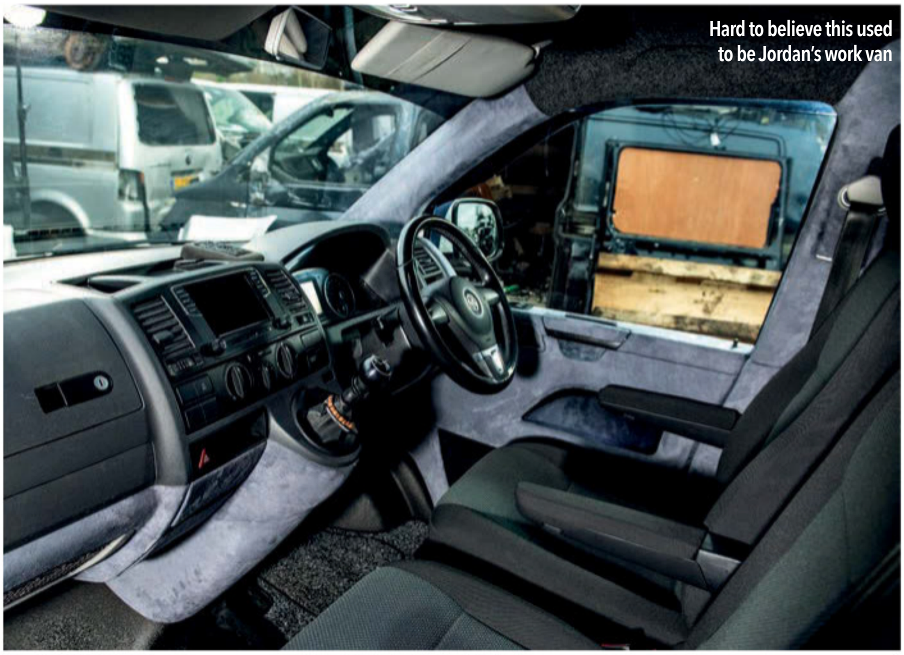
There's a lot going on in the Transporter aftermarket space. If this Camper is the result of obsessive research, then what are you waiting for?

Most of us have somebody we can point the finger at to blame for our obsession with Volkswagens and the subsequent vacuum of money in the bank. For Jordan Emery, owner of this super clean 2015 T5.1, it's his Uncle Bretty. "Yeah, it's totally his fault," laughs Jordan. "He got me into the scene as he's always been into air-cooled owning Splits, Bays and Beetles, even though he's a T5 man now. Growing up we were forever going to Cornwall on holiday. The number of vans you see around there is crazy! He took me to quite a few VW shows and when I was 17, I just knew I had to get a van."

Jordan's first foray was a diesel T3 (Type 25) from 1985. "Most of my mates at the time thought I was crazy as they were driving around in Corsas and Polos," he points out. "Then there was me in my old bus, or the love bus as we all used to call it! It had a Caravelle interior and so could seat six comfortably. We used to fly around most Friday nights with the drum and bass blaring getting some crazy looks!"

After that, Jordan moved on to a Mk2 Golf Driver that almost met a fiery end. "I can remember taking my mate back to his girlfriend's house around midnight one night," he begins. "We were down a dark country lane which seemed to go on forever. The next thing we knew, flames started coming from the engine bay! I jumped out in a panic and lifted the bonnet. Luckily, I had a huge bottle of water in the boot as she used to overheat now and then. Thankfully, we managed to put the fire out. We let it cool down for 10 minutes then she started right up again and off we went! Never did find what had happened." The things we did as kids!

Yet another Type 25 came and went as Jordan continued the arduous process of growing up with the VW exchanged for a deposit on a new home for him and his now wife, Amy. "I knew at some point I would have to do the right thing," he says with a glint in his eye. Once settled in their new place, Jordan took the leap into self-employment. With it came the opportunity of a van for the business. Of course, it was a VW. In fact, it was this VW T5.1 blazing at you from these pages. At that point, it was very much a standard van. "I had it covered in my livery," says Jordan. "Being the Startline 104bhp, it was quite sluggish, so

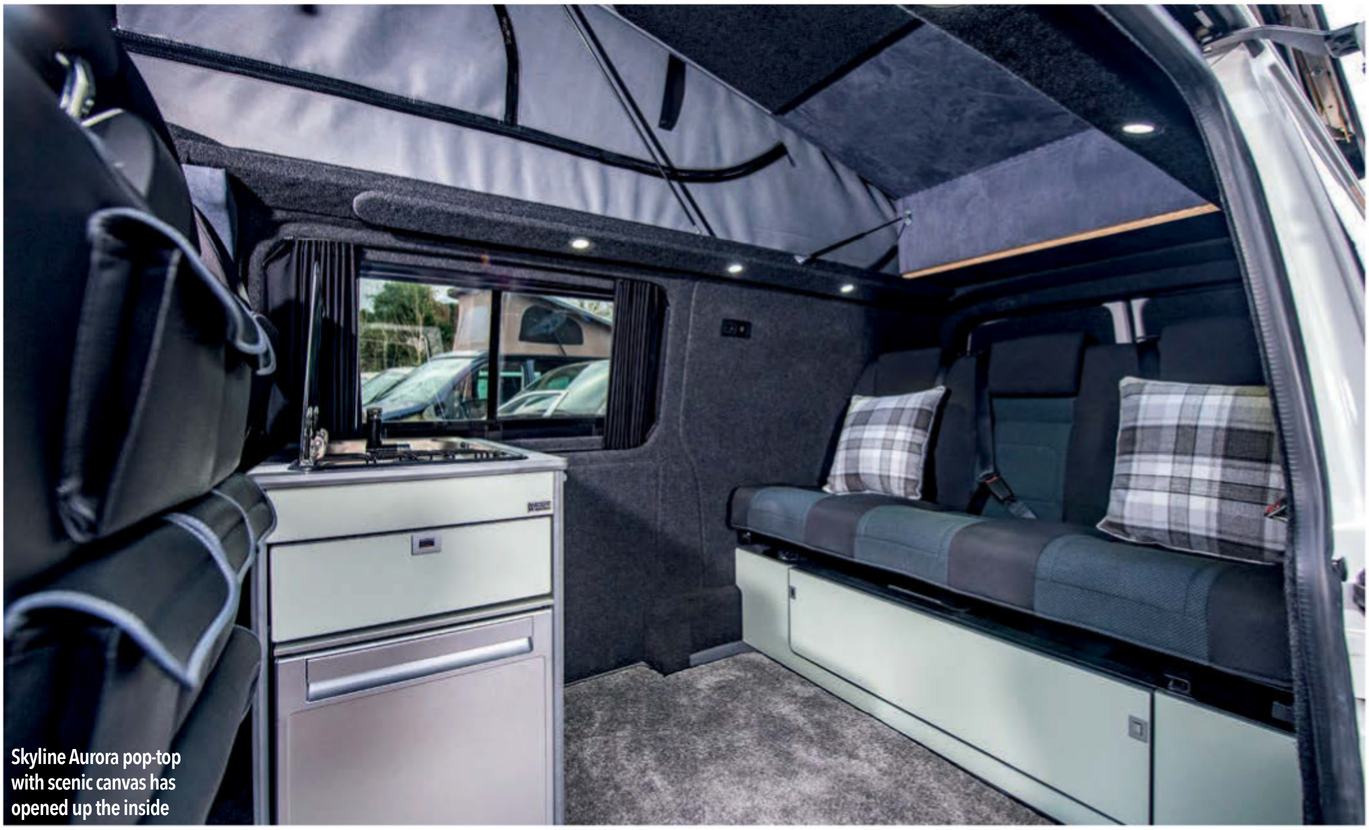

Hard to believe this used to be Jordan's work van

AccuAir E-Level+ Management controls the altitude

"I had everything crossed, praying that she wouldn't give birth on my freshly trimmed interior!"

I decided to get the 2.0tdi motor remapped by Performance Remap in Gloucester. Chris Dowle, the owner, took it right up to 174bhp! The project pretty much snowballed from there. The business stickers were removed and shortly afterwards I found VanDoc after doing an incredible amount of research. I knew immediately that these guys were the ones for me."

Jordan is a keen advocate of doing your research. With the aftermarket for Transporters absolutely flying, your choices have never been so varied, so this is a truly



Skyline Aurora pop-top with scenic canvas has opened up the inside

top piece of advice. Just flicking through this magazine will open a world of top suppliers waiting to help you build your perfect van. "It went to VanDoc as a work van and was transformed within a few days into a full-on camper," Jordan beams. "All the leisure battery, electrics, lighting, insulating and flooring were done along with the Skyline pop-top with scenic canvas." The door cards in particular are something a little different and really enhance the 'car-like' feel of the cab. The furniture was an ex-display deal from Majestic Campers at Cruise to the Prom. Jordan took it to Dean and Dale at VanDoc to install. "They know how picky I am," he admits. "Their attention to detail is second to none!!"

After attending a few Transporter-focused shows, Jordan's ideas were in full flow. "I love the commercial look and ran it that way for a while," he says. "Whilst everyone was colour-coding I stuck with it. But, as you may have realised, I like to change things up every so often. When it came to paint, all of my research pointed me towards Steve at Paintworx in Loughborough." The exterior has been transformed from what was once a Startline 'builders' van into a sleek, custom ride. "I had them do the T6.1 facelift and their awesome fuel cap delete which has left the passenger door smoothed for a cleaner look," Jordan explains.

Additional body styling has been kept to a minimum with just the rear spoiler enhancing the OEM look. The van had lived a fairly robust life until this point, with plenty of bumps and scrapes to show for it. Jordan took this opportunity to give it a complete respray. "I decided to keep the original colour due to seeing so many white vans being painted in different colours," he says.

BOOYAKAHSA

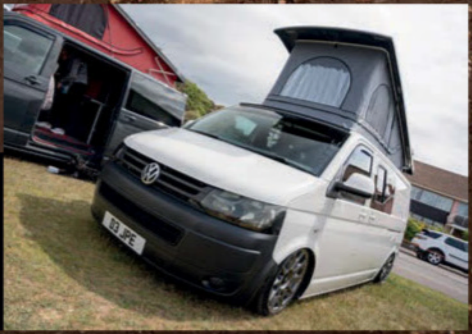
Jordan says, "After having previously owned six T3s (Type 25s) and a T4, I decided I wanted something a little more modern. I always said that T5s were for middle-aged blokes reliving their youth, pimping them up like Ali G's Renault 5. And now, here we are!" Booyakahsa! Respek to you, Jordan for keepin' it real with this sick van. Big up yourself!

> **"I found VanDoc after doing an incredible amount of research. I knew immediately that these guys were the ones for me"**

VANDOC
D3 JPE

TOP MOD: T6.1 FACE-LIFT

Jordan's van has plenty of top mods, but the biggest one aesthetically has to be that face-lift by the top Transporter surgeons at Paintworx. It's quite the change in look from its original '5.1 commercial style.



He has a point. Try thinking about how many white vans you see at shows these days.

We respect your knowledge of customised Transporters enough to know that the stance on this thing has not passed you by. The result is a team effort from two well-known names in the world of getting Volkswagens low. Namely, Luke at Plush Automotive and Tom at Centurion Motor Services. "Luke did the air install, and Tom carried out the subframe and engine raise and all the chassis clearance work," reveals Jordan. You have to say, rolling on those Rotiform CVT 19" wheels the result is perfection.

As we all know, vans are not just about the looks but the memories and experiences they give us in life. Some are a little more memorable than others as Jordan explains. "I'll never forget when my wife went into labour at home with our son and I had to do the dreaded drive from home to the hospital in the van. I had everything crossed, praying that she wouldn't give birth on my freshly trimmed interior!" As it happened, everything went smoothly, and no material was harmed in the delivery of the baby. Well played Amy, well played!

In a demonstration of life going full circle, the couple got married last year and used the van for their honeymoon around Cornwall taking in Padstow, Newquay and Bude. In other words, back to where it all began for Jordan. I think we'll take that as the perfect ending to the perfect van.

OWNER:

Name: Jordan Emery
Age: 30
Occupation: Owner of a drainage company
Instagram: @jord_t5.1
First car: VW Polo Mk3 Open Air
Dream van: 1960s Split Screen Samba
Hardest part of the build: Keeping the boss happy with handbags so I could keep spending money on the van!
Favourite modification: ABP Air Suspension with AccuAir E-Level+ management
Lesson learnt would pass on: Do your research before making any final decisions
Future plans: I think it's going to be new wheels next. But, as you know it's constant. You see things at meets and shows where I'm always looking for the next subtle change

2015 VW T5.1 T30 STARTLINE MODIFICATIONS:

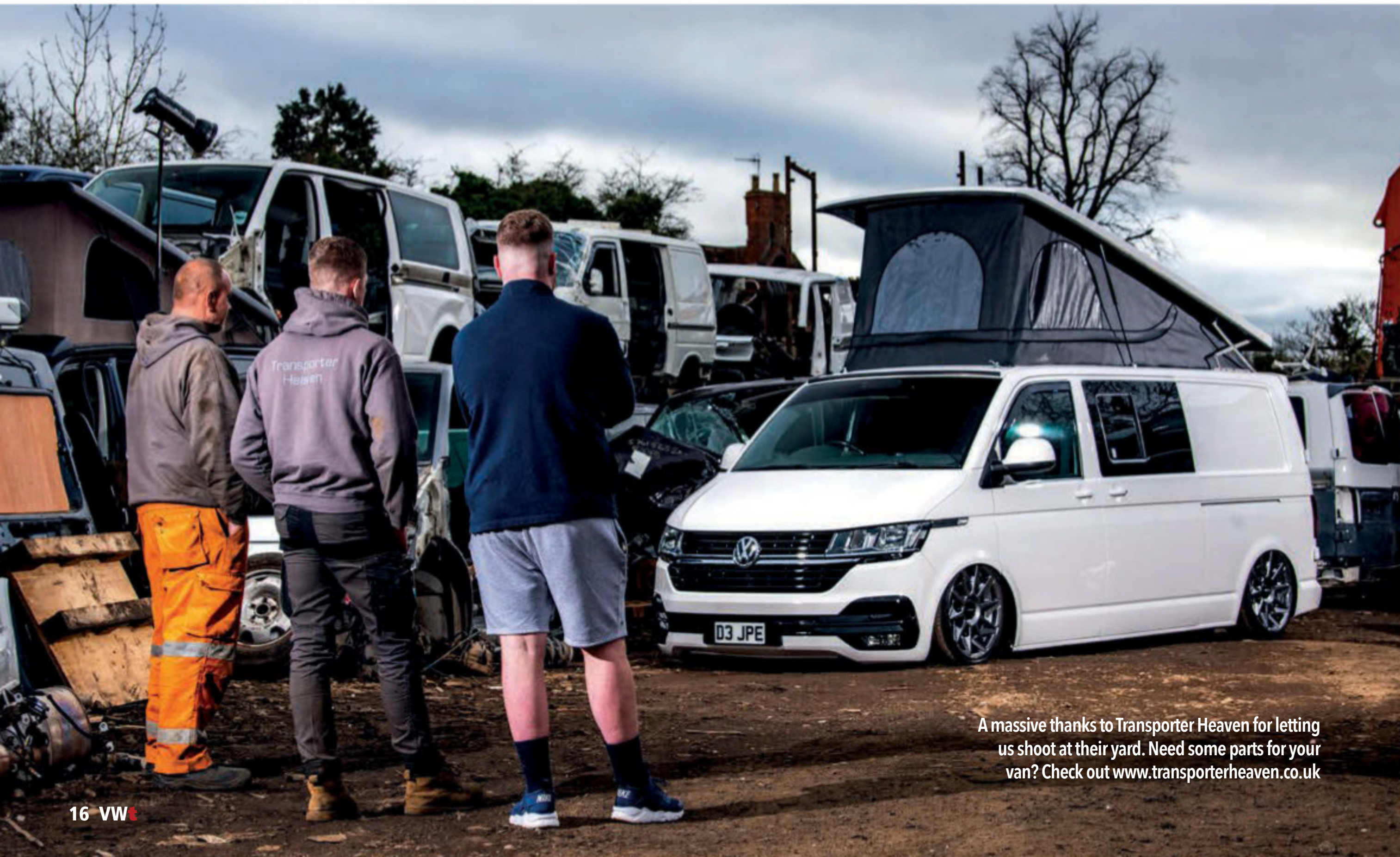
Engine: 2.0tdi, Stage 1 performance remap from stock power 106 BHP to 174 BHP

Chassis: ABP - 3/8" AccuAir E-Level+ Management, 19" Rotiform CVT - 8.5j all round with 10mm spacers on the rears, 225/40/R19 tyres

Exterior: Fuel cap delete, rear spoiler, T6.1 facelift, Skyline Aurora pop-top with scenic canvas

Interior: VanDoc conversion, RIB full-width bed, Majestic Campers furniture unit, T6 Simora seats, Altro flooring, VanX blackout blinds, spotlights

Thanks to: Dean and Dale at VanDoc for making my ideas into a reality and making the van what it is today. Also, Tom at Centurion Motors for getting the stance spot on and getting the van to sit exactly how I wanted it. Chris at Performance Remap for the engine work and Steve at Paintworx Loughborough for sorting all of the bodywork and paint. I would also like to thank my wife, Amy, for putting up with the constant van talk! Not to mention the constant pick ups and drop offs to places to get the van's next modification. Also, Lloyd Bain for getting me out of some sticky situations with the van including the static set-up and broken drive shafts the day before the air install. And finally, my three little boys... for not eating in daddy's van!



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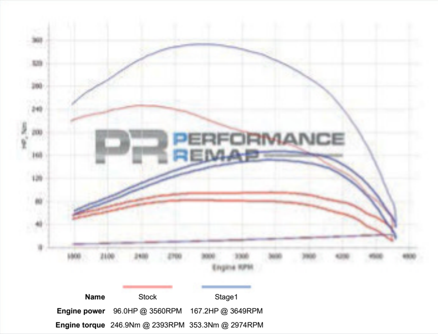

Name	Stock	Stage1
Engine power	96.0HP @ 3560RPM	167.2HP @ 3649RPM
Engine torque	246.9Nm @ 2393RPM	353.3Nm @ 2974RPM

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NEWS

All the latest from the world of Transporters & VWs…

AT

THE ULTIMATE SHOW FOR ALL MODELS OF VW TRANSPORTER
VWt Festival

We're very pleased to announce that VIBE Audio will be joining us at this year's VWt Festival as our official audio partner. VIBE have been at the forefront of innovative car audio since 1999 - they also own a crazy T5.1 demo van and sell loads of outstanding audio upgrades for the Transporter, all of which you can see in action at VWt Festival!

The VWt Festival - the ultimate show for all models of VW Transporter - takes place at Kent County Showground 14th – 16th July. For more info see **events.fastcar.co.uk/vwt-festival**

CALIFORNIA SURF TRIM REVEALED

Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles has unveiled the California Surf, a new trim level to the Transporter 6.1 model range. Adding to the existing California range – consisting of Beach Tour, Beach Camper and Ocean – the new California 6.1 Surf sits between the Beach Tour and Ocean.

Building on the Beach trims, the California Surf features two burners, a stainless-steel sink with a removable washing-up bowl, and heated front seats. The Surf is capable of comfortably sleeping a family of four, thanks to its loft bed and convertible back-seat bench.

Powered by a 2.0 TDI 150PS engine with direct-shift gearbox (DSG) and featuring 16" Clayton alloy wheels, the California Surf is also fitted 3-zone climatronic climate control, Ready to Discover' infotainment system and wireless App-Connect.

Driver and safety assistance systems, including Cruise Control with speed limiter, are part of the standard offering across the line-up. Thanks to Trailer Assist technology, front and rear parking sensors on the new trim notify the driver of nearby objects, even when the vehicle is towing a trailer. Prices start from just over £68,000

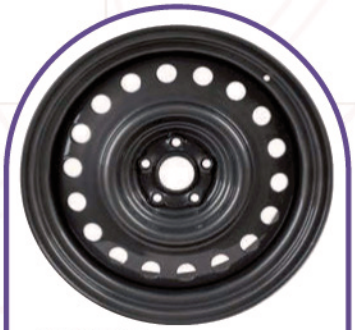
Got some news to share with the van clan? Send yours to **glenn.rowswell@kelsey.co.uk**

FULL RANGE

NAVISWHEELS.COM

BUILT FOR VW TRANSPORTERS 2023

SCAN ME!

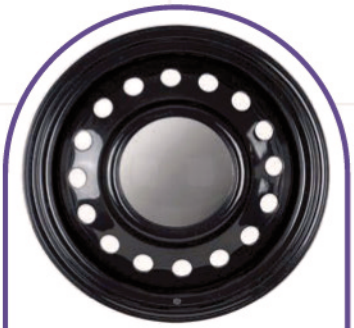


COLOURS:
- ANTHRACITE
- SILVER

19" & 20"
- 65.1 Centre Bore
- 5x120 Fitment
- 1100kg PER WHEEL

FROM: **£1050** PER SET

HOLEY
STEEL

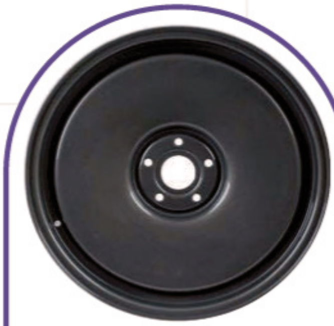


COLOUR:
- BLACK FINISH

19" & 20"
- 65.1 Centre Bore
- 5x120 Fitment
- 1100kg PER WHEEL

FROM: **£1100** PER SET

DOME
STEEL

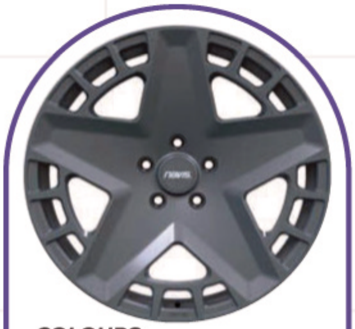


COLOURS:
- ANTHRACITE
- SILVER

19" & 20"
- 65.1 Centre Bore
- 5x120 Fitment
- 1100kg PER WHEEL

FROM: **£1050** PER SET

SCHMOOV
STEEL

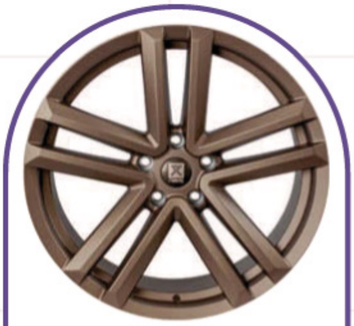


COLOURS:
- ANTHRACITE
- BLACK FINISH
- BRONZE
- SILVER

20"
- 65.1 Centre Bore
- 5x120 Fitment
- 1050kg PER WHEEL

FROM: **£1100** PER SET

UNKNOWN
ALLOY

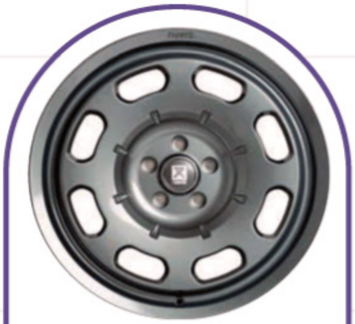


COLOURS:
- ANTHRACITE
- GLOSS BLACK
- BRONZE
- SILVER

20"
- 65.1 Centre Bore
- 5x120 Fitment
- 1050kg PER WHEEL

FROM: **£1000** PER SET

TWIN-5
ALLOY

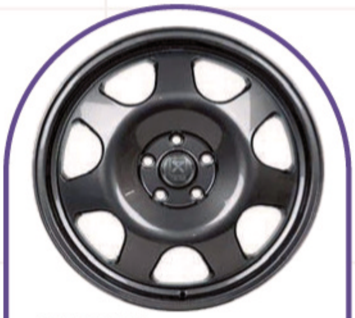


COLOURS:
- ANTHRACITE
- BLACK
- SATIN BRONZE
- SILVER

20"
- 65.1 Centre Bore
- 5x120 Fitment
- 1100kg PER WHEEL

FROM: **£1100** PER SET

LENTA
ALLOY

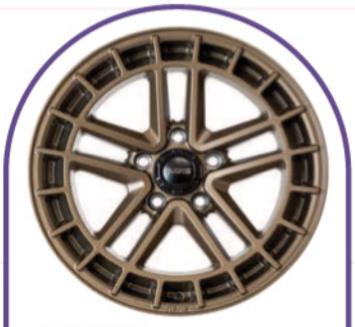


COLOURS:
- ANTHRACITE
- BLACK FINISH
- WHITE
- BRONZE
- SILVER

20"
- 65.1 Centre Bore
- 5x120 Fitment
- 1050kg PER WHEEL

FROM: **£1100** PER SET

GP-7
ALLOY

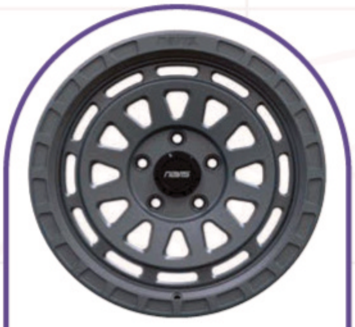


COLOURS:
- ANTHRACITE
- SATIN BLACK
- BRONZE

17"
- 65.1 Centre Bore
- 5x120 Fitment
- 1050kg PER WHEEL

FROM: **£1000** PER SET

MAC-AT
ALL TERRAIN



COLOURS:
- ANTHRACITE
- BLACK
- SATIN BRONZE

17"
- 65.1 Centre Bore
- 5x120 Fitment
- 1050kg PER WHEEL

FROM: **£1000** PER SET

GELIDA
ALL TERRAIN

TRADE PRICES AVAILABLE

NEWS

All the latest from the world of Transporters & VWs...

HERETICS
ON THE ROAD

VW fans in the UK have a few more dates to add to their diaries in 2023 thanks to specialist supplier Heritage Parts Centre announcing they are taking their Heretics meet-ups on the road this year.

On top of three evening events at Heritage HQ in Shoreham-by-Sea on Thursday 20th April, Thursday 15th June and Thursday 7th September enthusiasts will be able the enjoy a similar smorgasbord of cool cars and campers at a trio of guest locations around the UK too.

May's event is scheduled for the evening of Friday 26th May and will be hosted by Type 2 Detectives in Cambridgeshire. The next will come from The Motorist in Leeds on the evening of Friday 21st July and lastly from The Classic Motor Hub in Cirencester on the morning of Saturday 19th August.

All events will be free to attend with no ticket needed, but please check Heritage Parts Centre Facebook page to confirm opening times and postcodes before setting out on your journey.

MELLOWMATIC TO HEADLINE

The VWt Festival will, of course, be crammed with Europe's finest Transporters and the like, but what happens after dark? It's time to dust of your dancing shows and make your way to the pavilion for a few drinks and some big chunes!

And, we're stoked to announce that Mellowmatic will be headlining on Saturday night! Mellowmatic are a 7-piece collective, formed by musical director Ant Henderson (MD of Jurassic 5's Soup's Fullee Love Collective), producer and drummer Marcus Fisher and UK rapper AJ Mayhew aka AGGA.

The band is fronted by AGGA and female vocalist Nina Jade, supported by keys, synths, saxophone, guitar, bass and drums - delivering smooth chords, tasty grooves and brassy breaks. Mellowmatic will bring a live set that takes VWt Festival show-goers on an eclectic musical journey from the Boom-bap '90s to present day. Executing a tight musical performance, on point every time. This big-sound-high-energy band is made to be seen and heard!

The VWt Festival hits Kent County Showground 14th - 16th July. For more info see events.fastcar.co.uk/vwt-festival and for more on Mellowmatic check out **www.mellowmaticmusic.com**

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SIX

APPEAL

As T4s go, this modified VR6 version on custom built rims is rather special. Toz Torrance is the visionary lucky enough to call this van his own...

Words **Mark Walker** Photography **Andrew Thompson**

S72 CFC
SCARFACE
LOWRIDERS

RamAir filter helps feed the VR6

The title of this feature could well have been 'Evolution of Van' as Toz took the similarly long and winding road that many do when it comes to their van ownership history, starting many, many years ago with a Bay Window Devon conversion and working his way through another six vans before he bought this VR6 'velle nine years ago. Nine years is a very long time for most when it comes to van ownership – plenty of our readers and feature peeps might get through ten plus vans in that time!

But not Toz; he's found a van that he loves – after plenty of practice – and he has no plans to ever wave it a tearful farewell. He hadn't really planned to sell the last one either, but it got written off, so he went to London the very next day and bought this one, although it looked nothing like it does now, having been painted Toffee Brown when he bought it over a lot of rot.

"It's good but it's not right" to paraphrase Roy Walker of Catchphrase fame – this was Toz's sentiment when it came to his purchase, but he could see a whole world of potential hidden under those paint layers and he set off on a journey with laser vision. Well, maybe not laser exactly, as the build took a couple of twists and turns in terms of wheel choices as all the best ones do.

It wasn't an entirely auspicious start. The Caravelle was an ex-Heathrow airport taxi with 'Ridiculous mileage' – that's 290K to you and me, but as Toz planned to build a keeper out of it, he wasn't phased by that; he subsequently had a full engine and rebuild carried out seven years ago and the engine was mapped at the time to add 40hp to the pile, as well as a map on the auto box to complement it. It purrs and snarls at will.

One of the first questions I asked (because I'm old) was about the economy and that's when Toz shared that he's had it converted to multipoint LPG, although he only really uses it on flat motorways to not put the engine under undue stress: "It will do Swindon to Cornwall on £25 worth of petrol" added Toz. He's also had an upgraded oil cooler put on the gearbox, as they're notorious for running too hot.

But we're getting ahead of ourselves. As I mentioned earlier, the van had been painted

TOP MOD: CUSTOM RIMS

As cool as every element on Toz's van is, it's the wheels that get our vote. If you ever watched any of the American Hotrod or similar shows and marvelled at the fact they could build their own wheels, then it's a bit of a revelation that you can now get a similar service in Chippenham of all places! Yes, the price puts these kinds of wheels out of reach for many, but £3k to us doesn't seem insane for such individuality.

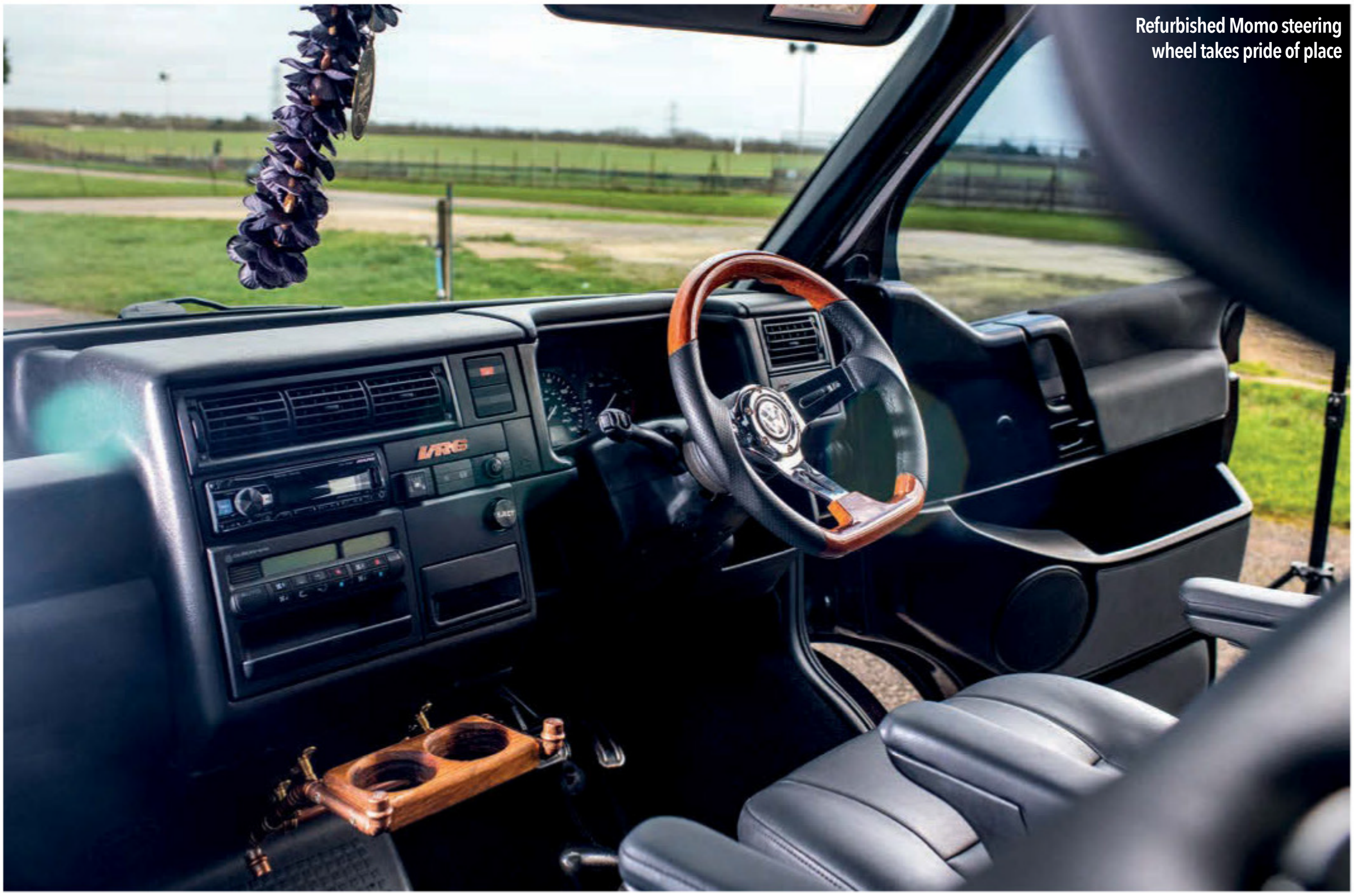
Toffee Brown when Toz bought it and the paint was found to be hiding plenty of demons. The B-pillar was full of expanding foam and the air conditioning unit fitted in the rear had rotted a hole in the floor that Toz could fit his head through, so he made the decision pretty early on to take the whole van back to bare metal and give it a full restoration inside, outside and underneath.

Luckily for Toz, the guy who did the body and paint let him help out, so countless nights were spent staying up 'til 4am slogging in the workshop, but Toz and partner Lynn loved every minute of it. The motivation to plough through this part of the build was to take his mum – who was suffering with Cancer and Parkinson's Disease – around Ireland for a week, so the van was built in honour of that.

When the paint swatches and spray-outs were all said and done, it was BMW Hot Chocolate Metallic that won out, after which a bit of extra styling was added in the form of a front splitter, T5 style rear spoiler, sidebars

“People on the scene are just incredible”

SCARFACE
LOWRIDERS
S72 CFC
VR6



Refurbished Momo steering wheel takes pride of place

and original mudflaps. The van was already lowered when Toz bought it – budget style – but he wanted so much more from it, so he called Shane to buy a set of his infamous plates and ended up finding a great friend and ally.

"I can't express how amazing Shane has been" added Toz, who ended up taking the van down to him and spending a week helping Shane to carry out a ton of mods to the van. Starting with some front chassis notches, Shane also fabricated a slimline gearbox mount and a sump guard, as well as relocated rear brake lines and a one-off welded signature on the chassis. He couldn't raise the engine as space was too tight with the VR6.

"We spent a week down there chilling and getting involved" added Toz, who's clearly delighted with both the work and the cool friendship he made, adding, "People on the scene are just incredible". He gave the upgraded suspension the ultimate test: filming Lynn's boobs bouncing up and down for an Instagram video: "It has the perfect bounce" apparently...

"It will do Swindon to Cornwall on £25 worth of petrol"

There's one thing sitting pretty, but it wasn't really enough for Toz if he had to just run off-the-peg rims, so he picked up the phone and called Rims Carnated in Chippenham to talk about getting a set of one-off bespoke rims made. The guys came up with a render according to Toz's specs and desires, mimicking a BBS wheel – CNC cut from solid billet - but with a burned copper rim. At £3k, they weren't exactly cheap, but Toz is over the moon with them, and they do make a very nice cherry on an already very tasty cake.

When he first had the van, the original seats were just covered up with blankets for a while until he came up with a plan, but subsequently, Toz sourced a factory bed from Cali Campers and had Big Vee Campers carry out the upholstery and headliner. They also added a one-piece floor that lifts out at will. Big Vee also found a company to make some bespoke front floor mats.

Toz is a self-confessed big coffee drinker and he wanted to come up with a cup holder that spoke volumes about this. If you like edgy coffee shops with exposed copper pipe fittings and industrial Steampunk fittings, then you'll surely love the cup holder he made from scratch. Toz's little sister is a jeweller, and she made the custom VR6 badges too – proper individuality in an off-the-peg world.

As I mentioned at the start of the feature, the engine and box were both rebuilt and remapped, but it'd be no good owning a VR6 if you didn't have a purposeful exhaust note to listen to. When Toz bought the van it had an old scaffold tube fitted as part of the exhaust (yes really!) but he knew he could improve on this rather substantially so he fitted a straight through 2.5" stainless exhaust from Infinity Exhausts in Bath with four pipes at the rear. Let's just say it sounds amazing, but Toz plans to get the manifolds done to match later this year. A couple of other exterior touches were later added in the form of a Heko bonnet deflector and window deflectors. Toz also fitted a scoop on the front wing, made by a chap in Chieveley and sold on eBay.

Genuine VW bed was sourced from the guys at Cali Campers

TIME FOR T4

Believe it or not, we struggle to find great T4s to feature these days. It's probably due to the fact that when people have the money to do a full build, they often favour the newer or much older vans. Every model has had that stage where they are in the wilderness and prices are on the downward slide – T25/T3s were stuck in that low-price weird zone for a couple of decades until a violent upswing in the last three to four years has seen the prices go stratospheric. Hopefully, T4s are currently bottoming out and will follow suit very soon – the time to find one is now!

S72 CFC
SCARFACE
LOWRIDERS

Although both Toz and Lynn are clearly not afraid of hard work, they also know when to call in the pros and have done several times throughout the near decade long build of this van. Toz is quick to point out that they couldn't have done it without Scotty's Van Centre at Bicester, who really do know their stuff and have worked hard to keep the van ticking over the years.

The final touches come in the audio department. Toz went into Oxford Audio for a head unit and came out with a pretty awesome setup. It's not that the guys upsold him, more that their enthusiasm shone through and encouraged him to go a bit further than he'd originally planned. He came out of that visit with a couple of amps and subwoofers too, as well as a pair of 6x9s in the rear – the subs being housed under the front seats.

The finishing touch on the inside is the refurbished Momo steering wheel from a guy in Bulgaria; it's funny how things are worth completely different amounts in different countries and cultures. It's always fascinated me how you can sometimes pay less than a tenth of the price for something if you're prepared to take a leap of faith and buy in another country; Toz did this with the 'wheel and it paid off. A great finishing touch to one of the greatest T4s we've featured.

OWNER:

Name: Toz Torrance
Age: 53
Occupation: Self employed
Location: Swindon
Instagram: @tozvr6

1998 VW T4 VR6 CARAVELLE MODIFICATIONS:

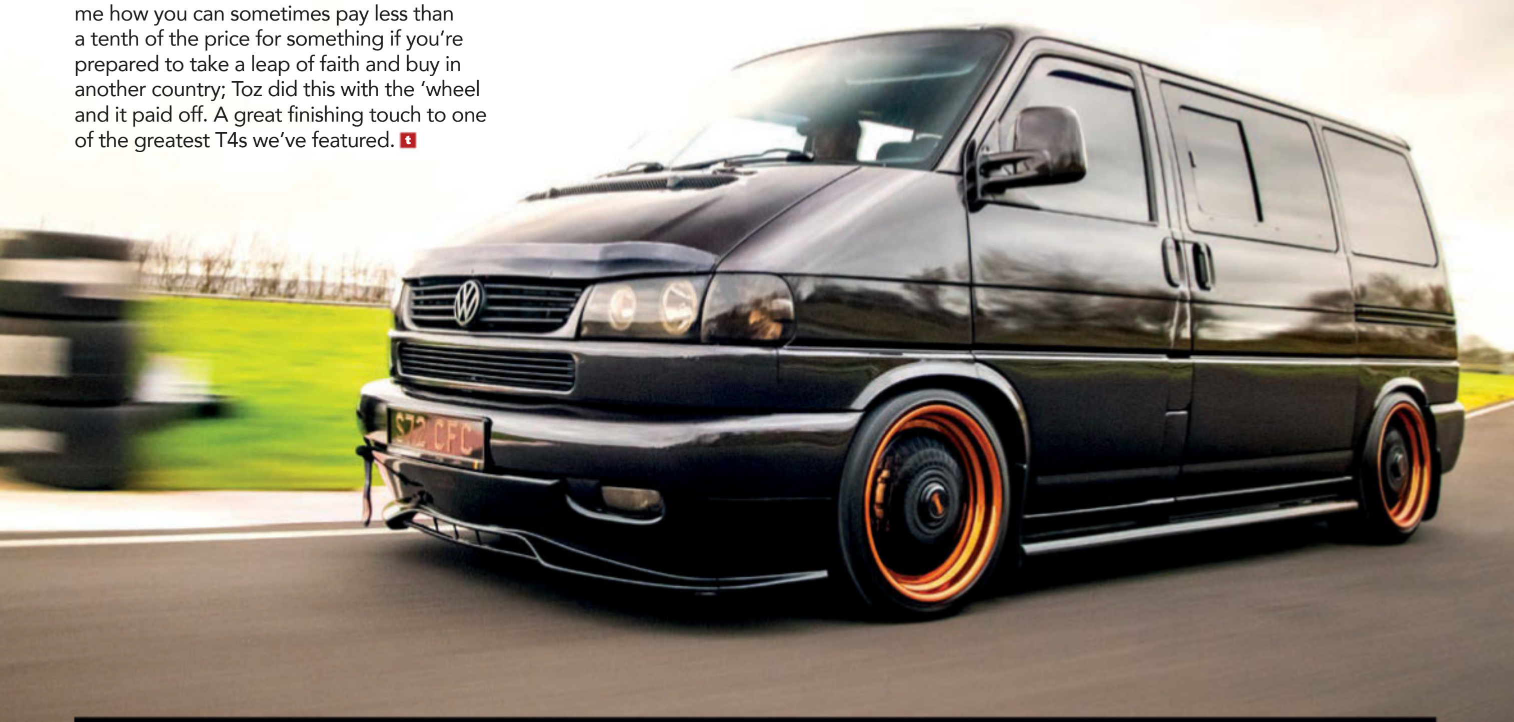
Engine: Rebuilt with +40 remap and auto box remap, 2.5" quad exit stainless exhaust by Infinity Exhausts, converted to multipoint LPG, RamAir air filter

Chassis: 18" one-off bespoke BBS style billet wheels with a burned copper rim from Rims Carnated, Goodyear Eagle F1 tyres 205/45/18 fronts & 225/45/18 rears, lowered courtesy of Shane at Scarface, Shane's plates, front notches, sump guard, slimline gearbox mount, relocated rear brake lines

Exterior: BMW Hot Chocolate metallic paint, Heko bonnet and window deflectors, front splitter, T5-style rear spoiler, sidebars, Sickspeed tow sprap

Interior: Genuine VW bed from Cali Campers, upholstery and custom mats by Big Vee Campers, refurbished Momo steering wheel

Audio: Alpine UTE-200BT, amps, subwoofers (housed under the front seats), Sony 6x9s in the rear



THANKS A LOT

A huge thanks to Maria Fisher and Castle Combe Circuit for allowing Toz and our ace snapper Andrew access to their wonderful circuit for the shoot. The West Country's home of motorsport has been welcoming fans of racing, car shows and events for over 70 years. Whether you want to race, watch or experience it they've got it all - see www.castlecombecircuit.co.uk for more info.

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FLUSH SLIDING WINDOWS
WE ARE FINALLY HAPPY

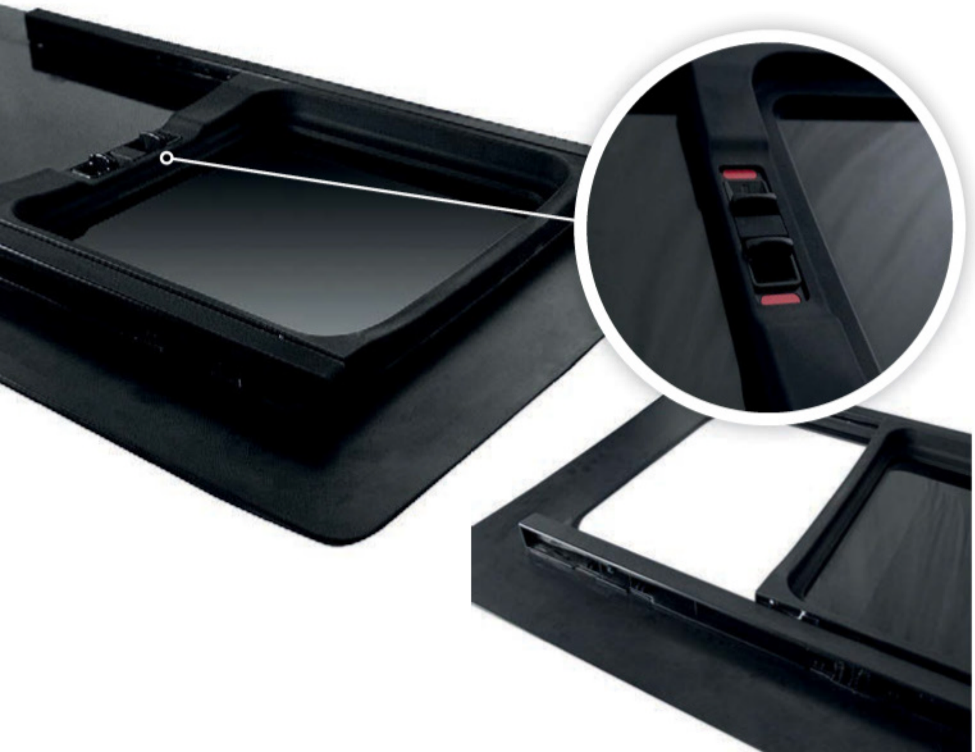
SEE THE VIDEO:
Want to find out more and see the window in action? Then check out www.youtube.com/@TransporterHQ

CAMPER GLASS FLUSH SLIDING WINDOWS

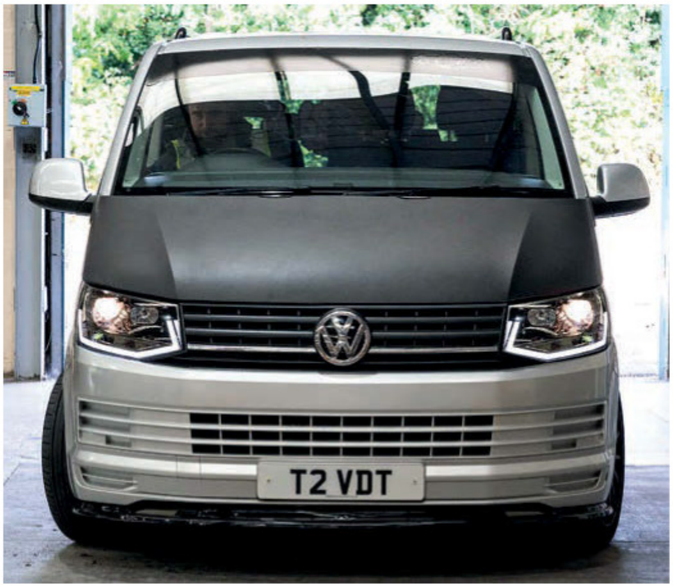
The wait is finally over, that's right after four years in the making the Camper Glass flush sliding window is finally here. Why so long? Well, let's just say these guys truly put the R&D into research and development, and that these windows have been tested, tested again and then tested some more to ensure they're the best offering on the market.

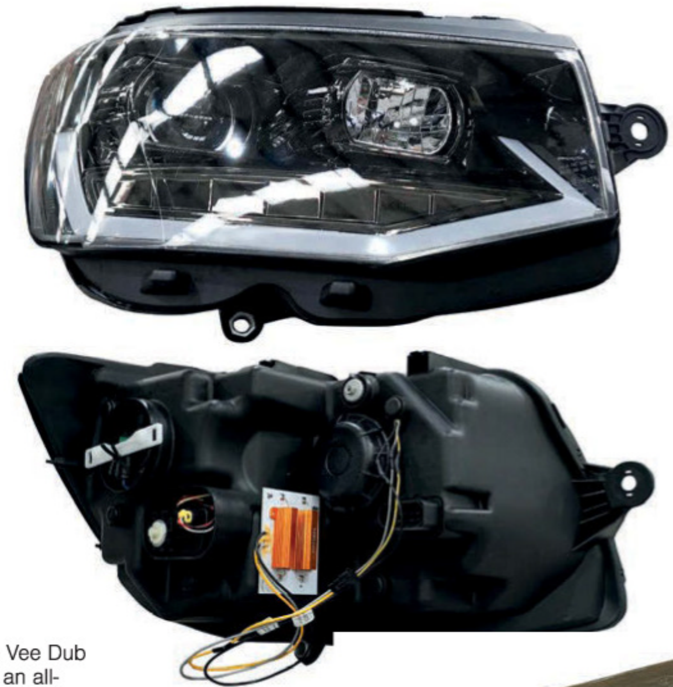
These glazed beauties boast OEM level design and manufacturing, a front opening flush sliding window (like OEM VW factory fitted windows) and the mid-section safety latch closes and locks when shut. They boast privacy tinted glass – that's stained glass not a flimsy film tint that can be scratched off or deteriorate - with tempered safety glass that is E marked for safety and to meet strict European standards. They also have an internal water drainage system. And, most importantly, unlike many aftermarket versions they don't bloody leak!

These will fit all models of T5 - T6.1, SWB or LWB models. Fitting kit sold separately.
Price **£200**
www.camperglass.co.uk



VITAL INFO:
- OEM level design and manufacturing
- Front opening flush sliding window
- Safety latch close and lock
- Stained privacy 80% tinted glass
- E marked tempered safety glass
- Internal water drainage system
- T5 - T6.1 fitment
- Delivery guarantee





VEE DUB T6 BLACK LIGHTBAR V2 HEADLIGHTS

Add a modern-day cleaner aesthetic looking headlight to your T6 with the Vee Dub Transporters new V2 T6 lightbar headlights. This V2 version now features an all-black look and sequential Audi-style indicators which replace the lightbar when you indicate.

Not only do they look better, but they also work better too! VDT told us they provide extra visibility on the road, are super easy to fit (thanks to the plug & play system) and come fully E-marked and are, as you'd expect from these guys fully UK road legal. Not suitable for T6s with OEM xenon headlights, RHD vehicles only.

Price **£540**

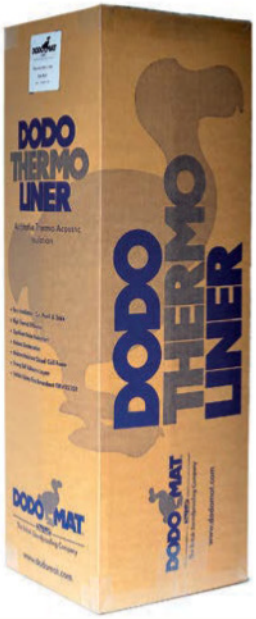
www.veedubtransporters.co.uk

T4 WING MIRRORS

Ahhh, the trusty wing mirror... a punchbag for drunken yoofs, a target for hasty delivery drivers and unexplainably magnetised towards gate posts and garage walls. Whether yours have been the victim of a tragic encounter, or simply suffering from scratches and sun fading, don't panic, help is at hand. Heritage Parts Centre offers a full collection of T4 door mirrors to assist with your motoring maneuverers and aesthetic requirements. Available for LHD and RHD models with both manual and electric operation, and heating elements too.

Priced from **£52**

www.heritagepartscentre.com



DODO MAT THERMO LINER V3

Our friends at Dodo Mat have just announced their best-selling, industry leading Thermo Liner will now be available in a new improved Version 3. Yes, you read that right, they've somehow made it even betterer! So, how? You may ask. Well, the flexible closed cell elastomeric foam has been upgraded with improved thermal performance and it now features a combination of low thermal conductivity and high-water vapour diffusion resistance. Clever, eh?

The upgrades don't end there, the self-adhesive surface has been made rougher to improve its grip on the metal panels and the release paper made stronger and easier to remove. And we thought you couldn't improve on perfection! Available now in 6mm thickness and 3m and 10m roll lengths.

Price **£130** (10 metres)

www.dodomat.com

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T5/T6 BILSTEIN B12 SWAMPER SUSPENSION KIT

Not every Transporter owner dreams of scraping their sills and collecting cats eyes on their way to a show or weekend camping. If you love a comfy ride and a great big arch gap, this suspension kit is for you. Created by Heritage Parts Centre utilising long travel Bilstein B6 shock absorbers and Eibach +35mm lift springs, it is the closest you'll come to an OEM solution for getting the Swamper look on your T5 or T6.

Suitable for on-road and moderate off-road use, the springs have been engineered to avoid excessive body roll and wallowing - which is commonly associated with 'jacked up' vehicles - but will offer some much-needed clearance if you want to fit big knobbly tyres. Currently available for T26, T28 and T30 models, there is a T32 kit in the pipeline plus a more aggressive off-road kit for those who really want to test their Transporter on all terrains.

Price **£1134**

www.heritagepartscentre.com

140/150mm
PRO SERIES CUT

AUTO FINESSE PRO SERIES COMPOUNDS AND PADS

Detailing gurus Auto Finesse have just officially announced the launch of their Pro Series Compounds, Pucks and Pads. These are the result of three years of extensive development and research by their in-house detailing experts - aided by their wider network of over 50 trusted independent specialists - who have helped them develop an amazing new line-up that is 'up to the job' on any enhancement or paint correction job you may face.

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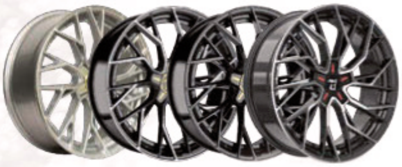
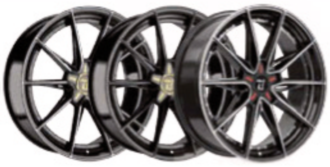
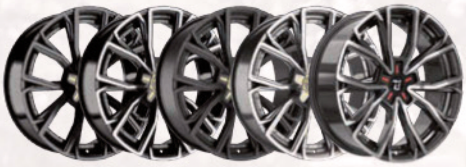


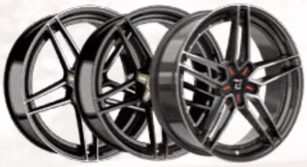
VOODOO
Gloss Raven Black Polished, Urban Chrome, Gloss Raven Black & Custom Gloss Raven Black Polished Fitted With Optional Red Inserts 8.5x18" 8.5x20"



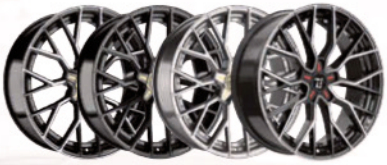
URBAN RACER
Gloss Raven Black Polished, Gloss Raven Black & Custom Gloss Raven Black Polished Fitted With Optional Red Inserts 8.5x18" 8.5x20" 9.5x20"



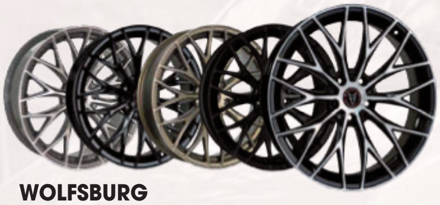
MATRIX
Gloss Raven Black, Gloss Raven Black Polished, Matt Raven Black, Titanium Polished & Custom Gloss Raven Black Polished Fitted With Optional Red Inserts 8.5x18" 8.5x20



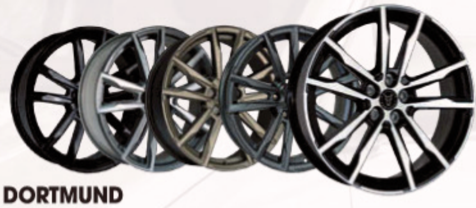
TALON
Gloss Raven Black Polished
Gloss Raven Black & Custom Gloss Raven Black Polished Fitted With Optional Red Inserts 8.5x18" 8.5x20"



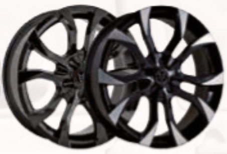
MUNICH GTR
Gloss Raven Black Polished, Gloss Raven Black, Urban Chrome Polished & Custom Gloss Raven Black Polished Fitted With Optional Red Inserts
8.5x18" 8.5x19" 8.5x20" 9.5x20" 9.5x22"



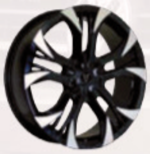
WOLFSBURG
Gloss Black / Polished, Gloss Black, Gloss Silver Gunmetal / Polished, & Matt Black
8.0x18" 8.5x20" Gloss Bronze 8.5x20" only



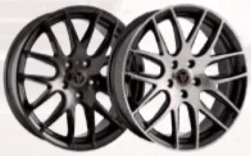
DORTMUND
Gloss Black, Gunmetal / Polished, Gloss Bronze, Matt Black, Gloss Black / Polished
8.5x18" 8.5x19" 8.5x20"



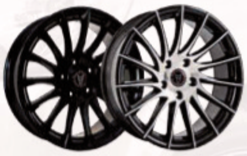
ASSASSIN
Gloss Black / Polished & Gloss Black
7.0x16" 7.0x17" 8.0x18" 8.5x19" 8.5x20"



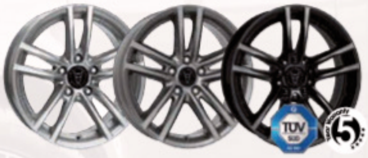
ASSASSIN GT2
Gloss Black / Polished
8.5x18" 8.5x20"



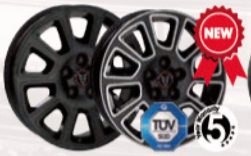
MUNICH
Gloss Black & Gloss Black / Polished
8.5x18" 8.5x20"



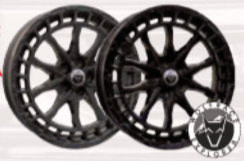
AERO
Gloss Black & Gloss Black / Polished
8.5x18" 8.5x20"



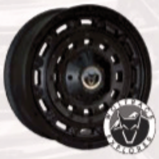
X10
Racing Black, Gunmetal & Silver
All colours have a 5 year warranty
8.5x18" 9.0x19"



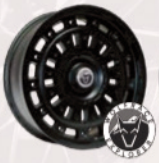
TRANSPORTER 2
Gloss Black (5year warranty) & Gloss Black / Polished
6.0x15" 6.0x16" 6.5x16" 7.0x17" 7.5x18"



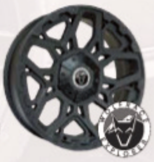
WOLF
Gloss Black & Matt Black
8.5x20"



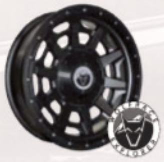
OVERLAND
Matt Black / Black Rivets
8.5x17" 8.0x18"



EXPLORE
Matt Black / Black Rivets
8.0x18"

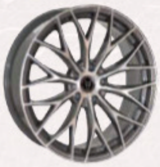


SAHARA
Matt Black
8.5x17" 8.5x18" 8.5x20"

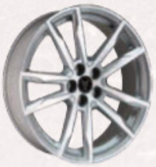


CANYON
Matt Black
Chrome Rivets
8.5x17"

NEW WHEELS 2023



WOLFSBURG
Gloss Silver
8.0x18" 8.5x20"



DORTMUND
Gloss Silver,
8.5x18" 8.5x19" 8.5x20"

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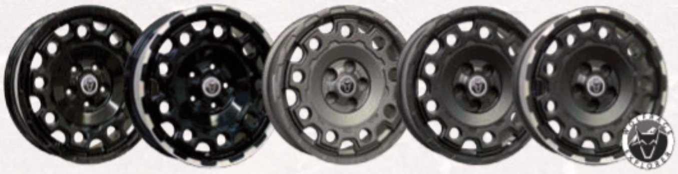


GLOSS BLACK
8.0x17"

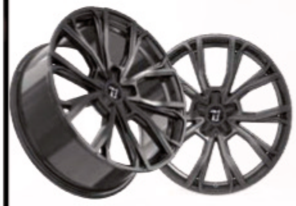
GLOSS BLACK /POLISHED
8.0x17"

MATT TITANIUM
8.0x17"

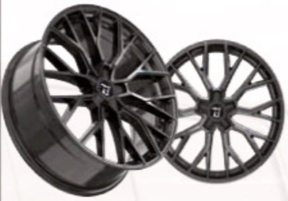
MATT BLACK
8.0x17"

MATT BLACK /POLISHED
8.0x17"

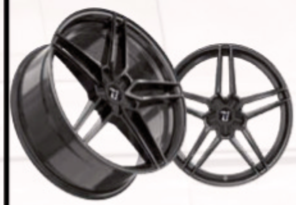
New
Wolfrace 71 Black Edition



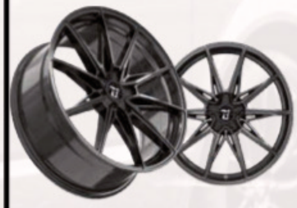
Matrix



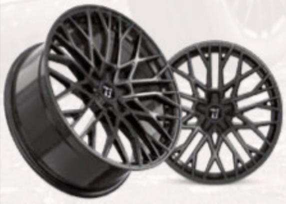
Munich GTR



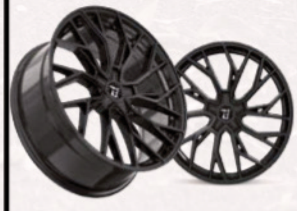
Talon



Urban Racer



Venom



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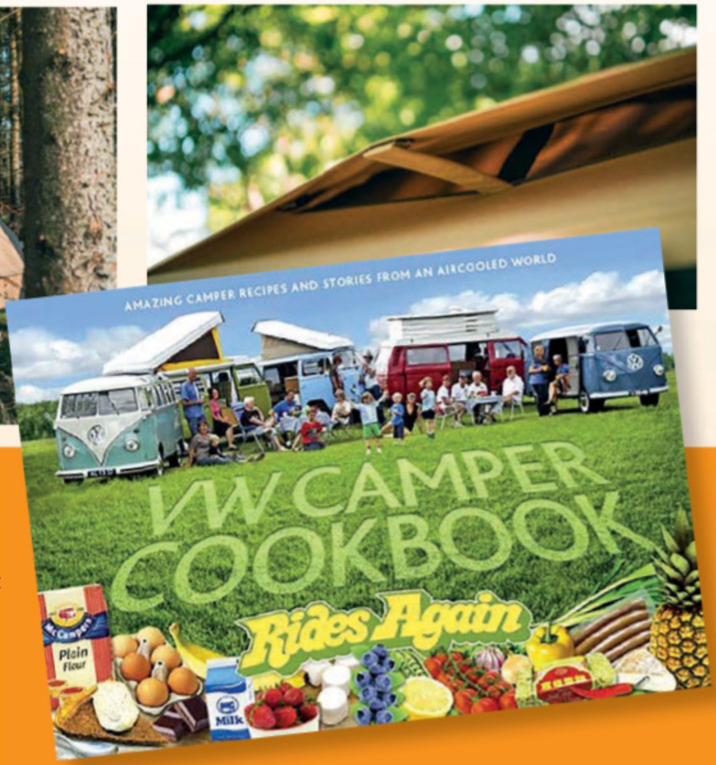
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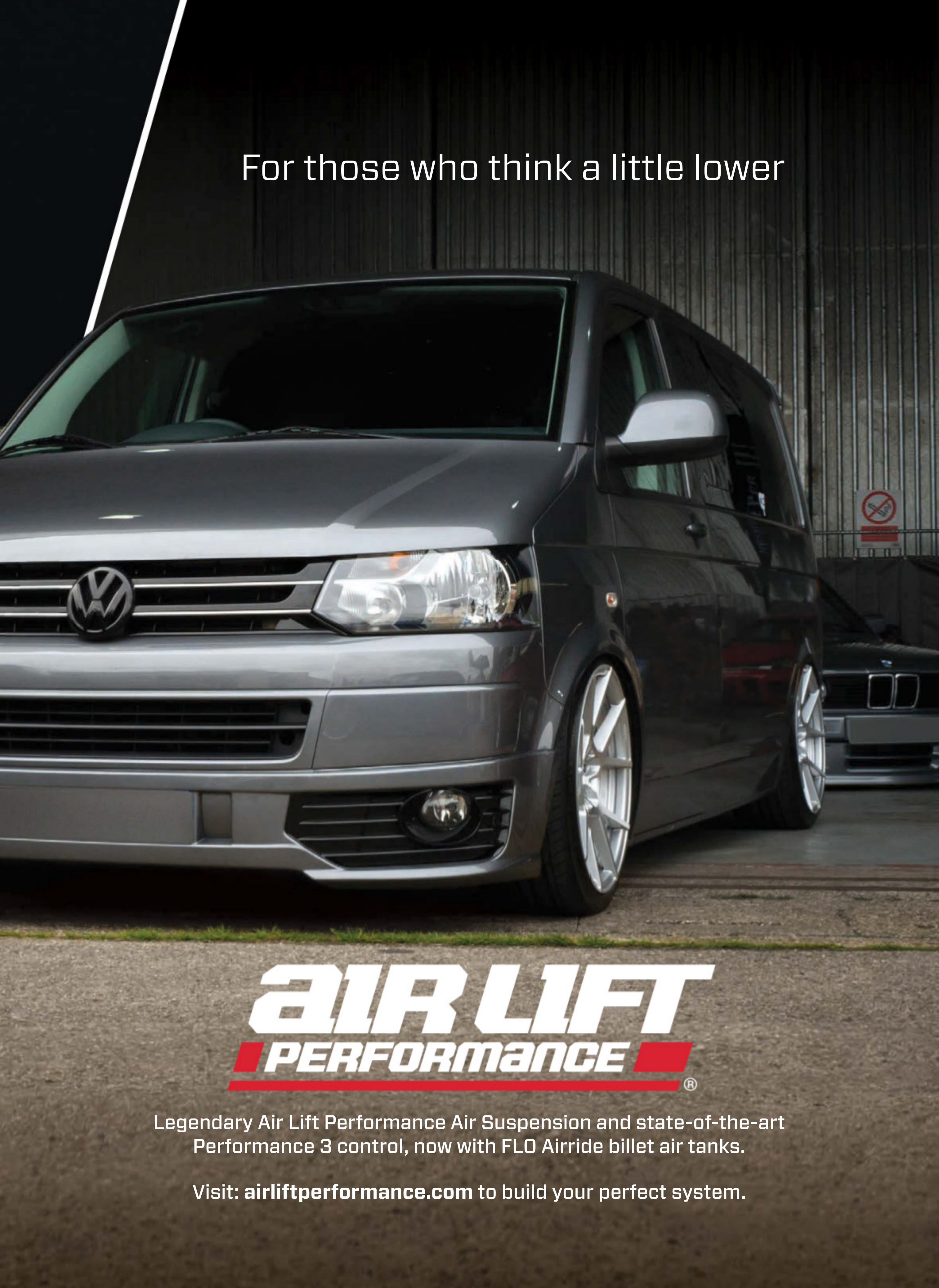
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A famous Japanese proverb says, ‘get knocked down seven times and stand up eight.’ Dale Bufton, owner of this super-smooth T5 has not only stood up, he’s well and truly jumped up...

Words **Gordie Wollacott** Photography **Andrew Thompson**

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Smoother than a cashmere codpiece

Against all odds, Dale Bufton has managed to create a magazine-worthy ride. His strong desire to modify his van has been met with resistance at almost every turn. It has come in many forms, not just from the 2005 T5 itself! Lesser beings may have quit before now, but Dale's persistence has paid off. Is he mad? Is he stubborn? Is he simply a guy who knows what he wants and gets after it? We're just here to talk about campers, we'll let you decide the rest!

There's a familiar beginning to this particular story. Man buys van for work. Man has a penchant for modified cars. Man does one thing to van, and it gets out of hand. We can see one or two of you nodding at the back. Game respecting game.

"I genuinely wasn't thinking about modifying it when I bought it," pleads Dale as if we are judge and jury as opposed to an outright enabler. "I work as a French Polisher travelling up and down the country so the idea of a Transporter that I could sleep in made a lot of sense." It was in a pretty sorry state when he bought it, being the archetypal builder's van.

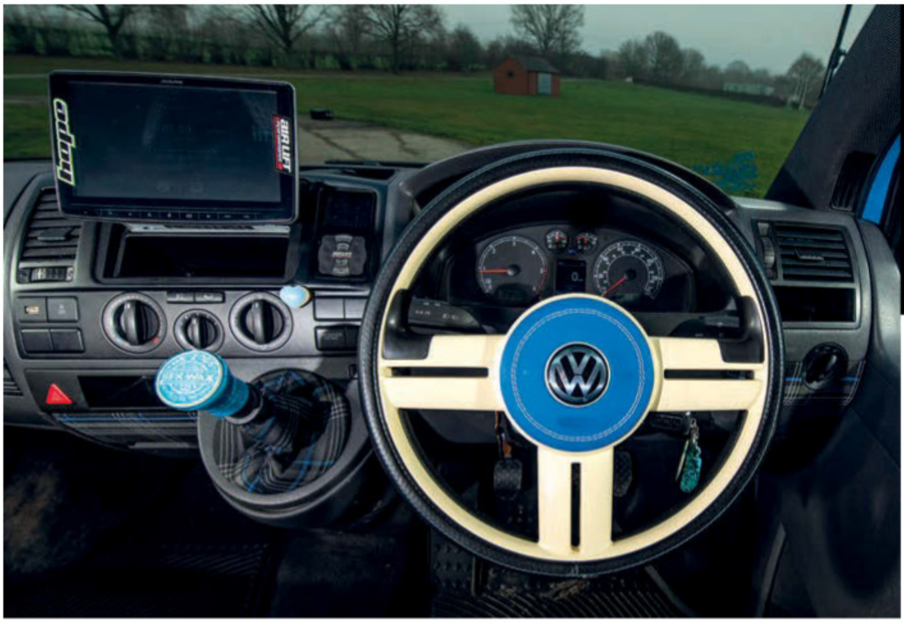
The transformation started with a refresh of the bodywork over at Paintworx in Loughborough. "I didn't like driving around in a beat-up van," admits Dale. "It doesn't look good for the business, and I was never going to keep it for long looking like that. Steve at Paintworx talked to me about a BMW M3 colour so I went to see it in a showroom. As soon as I spotted it under the showroom lights, I knew immediately it was the colour for me."

Not long after the paint was dry, Dale was heading home late one night from a job in Cambridgeshire when the head gasket went. "Checking back through the paperwork I realised it had already gone once before," he says, with a grimace. "I couldn't face binning it off after I just paid for the paintwork so I posted up on the T5 forum about needing a new engine." Dale's research had only turned up reconditioned units for about £3000 so far. "That's when I got a comment from Lee Prior at AR Developments (formerly AR Tuning). He suggested fitting a PD 130 engine and conveniently had one on hand!" By all accounts

INTERIOR MOTIVES

Dale took on the interior himself. Up front he has gone with a Lupo steering wheel and masses of tartan trim. In the back, there's a Rusty Lee rock n roll bed and yet more yards of tartan. The cab flooring is from a Caravelle and the rear is covered with Altro.

> “I work as a French Polisher travelling up and down the country so the idea of a Transporter that I could sleep in made a lot of sense”



TOP MOD: T5.1 DASH CONVERSION

Eagle eyes will have noticed the T5.1 dash conversion. Dale's only goals with this were to replace the broken glovebox in his existing dash and fit his Air Lift controller in the middle vent. He picked it up for a bargain £20 at a breaker's yard, including all the blanks and centre console. He has further enhanced the clocks with the addition of a colour multifunction display from ARD Technik. Not only does it show every conceivable piece of information you could ever want in a van, but also has a built-in OBD reader!

> **"I got a little bit excited and had a Darkside intercooler, hard pipe kit and EGR blank done shortly afterwards"**

it only had 60,000 miles on it and was ready for conversion into a Transporter. The asking price fitted was £1200. That's 130bhp on tap with endless possibilities of further tuning down the line. Dale nursed the sick T5 up to Lee the very next day!

While the surgery was taking place, Lee made another suggestion about a 6-speed gearbox. Dale didn't need too much convincing. "The 'box was from a 15,000-mile T6 so, together with the fairly low mileage engine it was sounding like the perfect package," beams Dale. AR Developments produce a custom aluminium bracket for mounting the gearbox in a Transporter and, along with a new starter motor, driveshafts and of course gear linkage and shifter, completed the job in very little time. "It felt so good," reports Dale. "In fact, I got a little bit excited and had a Darkside intercooler, hard pipe kit and EGR blank done shortly afterwards." The output is now close to 200bhp!

The tinkering didn't stop there with Dale returning to AR for Lee's son, Adam to build him a straight-through stainless steel custom exhaust. "Honestly, I regretted that move straight away," confesses Dale. "I didn't anticipate just how loud it would be! I went back soon afterwards and had a resonator fitted to calm it down a bit." A further upgrade involving a turbo from a PD 150 also ended in tears when let's just say Dale was 'testing it out' and the turbo blew! "It just went bang," he exclaims. "I've never had a turbo go on me before! I was stuck at the side of the motorway waiting for recovery for ages." He has since had a turbo built specifically for the motor and reports good reliability ever since.

As previously mentioned, this van has definitely fought with Dale en route to turning into this absolute looker. Even something as simple as upgrading the headlights to halo versions almost ended in disaster. "They just kept blowing a fuse, so I was advised to switch from 5amp to 20amp," he says. "My friend said don't jump that high, try a 10amp. This time it didn't blow, but it did melt and start smoking! I had to unplug it all as the wires were so hot. I sold those lights and the guy that bought them had no problems leading me to suspect

Dale's daughter Rae loves adventures in the T5

a wiring fault in the van." It's highly likely as, after posting a picture of it on the pre-facelift forum, a surprised previous owner commented that when he owned the van it was written off on a Category N due to some minor front-end damage. He provided pictures of the repairs done which also involved headlight replacement and some wiring work.

Undeterred, Dale returned to the forums looking for a solution. In fact, it was a full two years later as his search continued when one weary member raised his head above the parapet and offered to help. "I just think he couldn't take watching me struggle anymore," laughs Dale. It was Beardy Man Vans and Conversions that came to the rescue. Dale basically wanted super bright LED lights, and Beardy Man obliged. Not only that, but there's also some neat custom CNC logo work gone into the headlights for the finishing touch.

In yet another battle, some lowlife human thought keying the side of cars parked on Dale's street was a fun evening activity and so the van went back to Paintworx for reparation. Dale took the chance for a few subtle mods, not

before his partner talked him out of a T6 facelift. "She just asked why are you going to spend all that money to make it look like something it isn't," he says. The philosophical nature of this view is deep. In the end, a fuel flap delete along with rear reflectors and brake light smoothing to match the removed side repeaters has given this T5 all the custom vibe it needs.

The unusual choice of colour makes this van stand out, but it's the stance and wheels that really set it off. Air Lift management with Viair compressors underslung for more room in the rear and ABP bags and struts have been expertly installed, again by AR Developments. Further chassis work means that this van can roll super low over its delicious staggered 19" Navis Schmoovs in cream.

If something has caused you endless trouble, it's normally best to part ways with it and move on. But here is a glimpse of what a bit of perseverance can get you. Next time it might just be worth climbing that hill, you never know what's waiting on the other side. t

OWNER:

Name: Dale Bufton
Age: 36
Occupation: French Polisher
Instagram: @dale_bufton
First car: Metro 1.1
Dream van: Crafter
Hardest part of the build: Headlights, they were such a pain
Favourite modification: Headlights and colour MFA
Lesson learnt would pass on: Don't modify too much!
Future plans: Looking at building a Crafter camper

2005 VW T5 PANEL VAN MODIFICATIONS:

Engine: PD 130 engine, hybrid turbo, Darkside intercooler and hard pipe kit, full custom stainless AR Developments exhaust, 196bhp

Chassis: 19" Navis Schmoovs - front 8.5 et35 & rear 10 et40, 245/45/19 tyres, ABP bags and struts, Air Lift management with underslung Viair compressors, standard brakes refurbished and powder coated at Big Reds

Exterior: Smoothed front bumper, smoothed side repeaters, fuel cap delete, high rear brake light delete, rear bumper reflectors deleted, colour-coded door handles, T5.1 power folding mirrors, custom one-off LED headlights with halo with VW badge with Sex Wax logo, resprayed Yas Marina Blue (BMW F80 M3)

Interior: T5.1 dash with Air Lift controller mounted in vent, painted to match, trimmed A and B pillars in Audi headlining material including cab roof, blue GTi tartan to trim parts of the dash and the internal door handles, sun visors trimmed with tartan, Caravelle cab carpet, Lupo steering wheel custom painted and trimmed

Audio: Alpine Halo head unit and upgraded VIBE speakers

Thanks to: AR Ditta for the clocks, Leominster for powder coating the wheels, Lee and Adam Prior for engine and gearbox work

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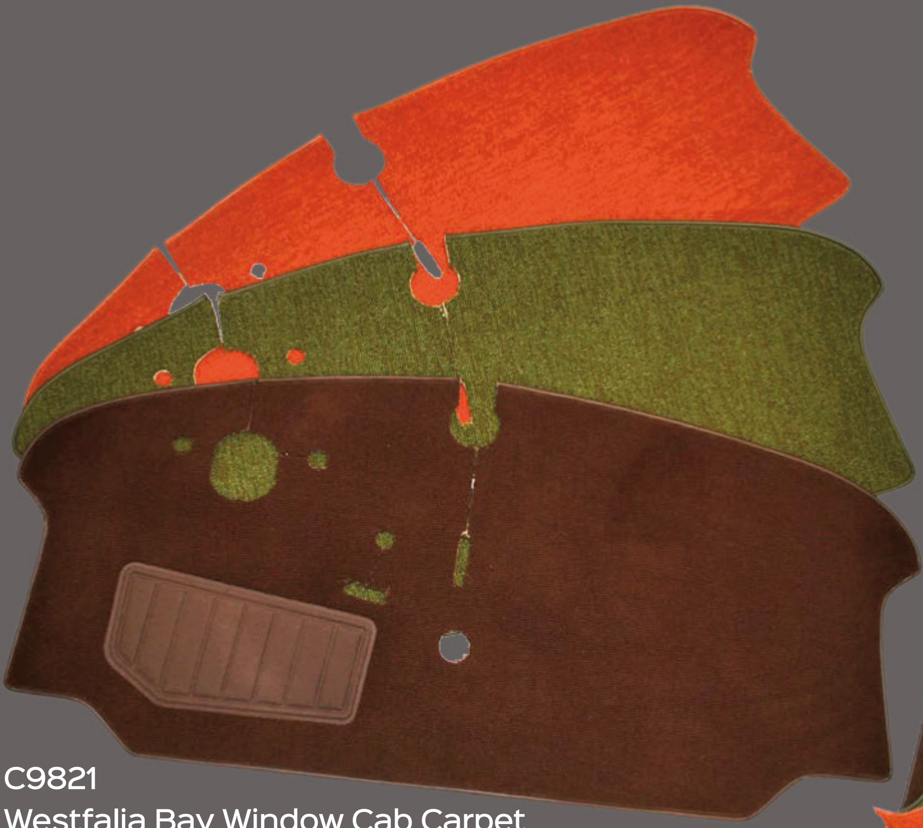

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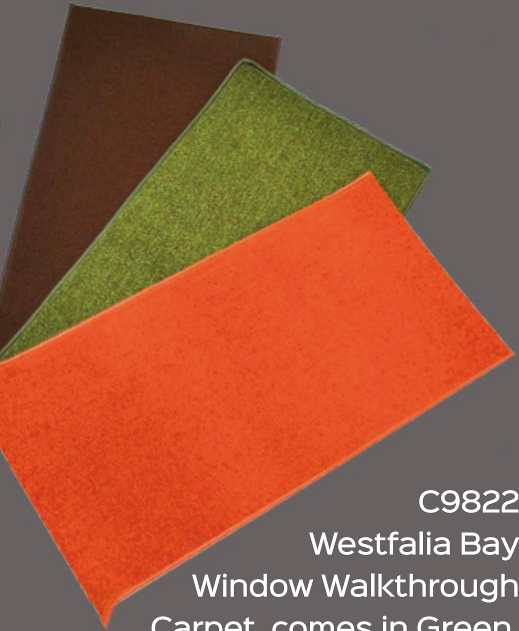
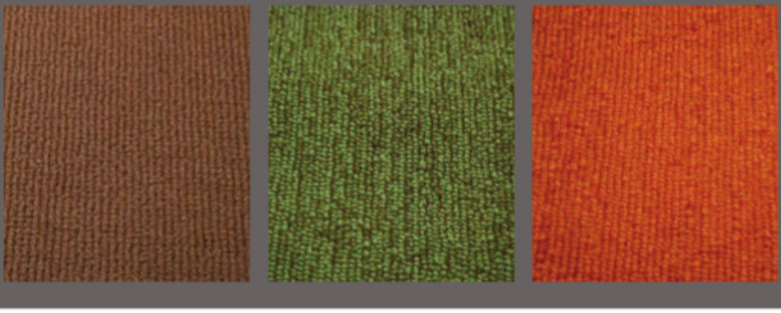
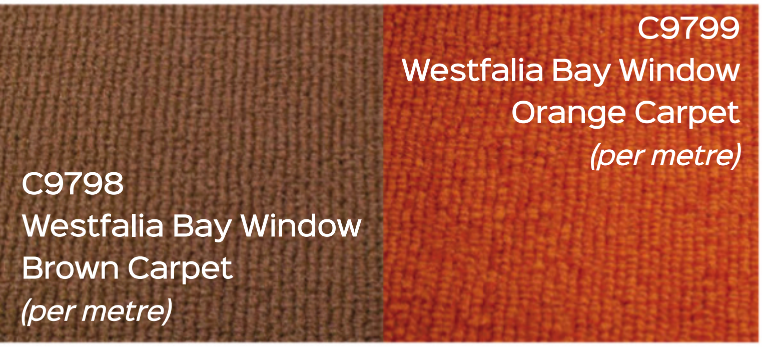
Westfalia Bay Window Cab Carpet
Comes in Green, Orange or Brown



C9822
Westfalia Bay Window Walkthrough Carpet, comes in Green, Orange or Brown

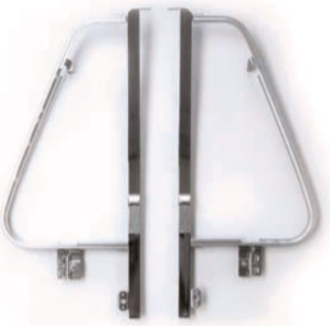


C9823
Westfalia Bay Window Cargo Floor Carpet
Comes in Green, Orange or Brown



C9799
Westfalia Bay Window Orange Carpet
(per metre)

C9798
Westfalia Bay Window Brown Carpet
(per metre)



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MIGHTY DUB FEST

Delicious Dubs, live music, and good times a plenty as Mighty Dub Fest takes over Alnwick Castle...

Words **Katy Emmett** Photography **Tasha Bowers**

Mighty Dub Fest is an annual VW Festival overlooking the picturesque Alnwick Castle in Northumberland. The castle and country estate are currently owned by Ralph Percy, the 12th Duke of Northumberland. But for one weekend a year he opens the gates to those with a love of the outdoors, camping and Volkswagens.

Mighty Dub Fest is now in its 12th year and is an established event within the VW calendar and also a highly anticipated event within Northumberland, attracting visitors from all over the UK. The camping element brings visitors from the tops of Scotland to as far as Devon in the deep south west, introducing Northumberland to the masses. In fact, we're told by many locals it's the busiest weekend of the year within Alnwick, helping to boost the town's economy and increasing tourism throughout the year.

From old vintage Beetles and Split Screens to the latest T6.1s and everything in between, this show had the lot. However, don't think this was a show just about cars and vans though, as MDF was rammed with live acts all weekend that kept the place rocking from pretty much dawn to dusk. Top acts included the likes of Beatles tribute band the Cavernites, The Scandals, Tom Dibb, The Jam'd, The Joe Mangels and a whole host of other amazing groups. We have to say, the MDF showgoers sure know how to party!

Mighty Dub Fest is truly a festival for all. With a whole weekend of activities from the likes of dog shows, circus skills, fire shows, bingo, magicians, family fun, silent discos and non stop live music... as well as all the VWs! If you like VWs and a good party, we suggest you take a trip to Alnwick Castle... you won't regret it!

There were a great mix of air and water cooled Transporters

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MDF

Mighty Dub Fest was established in 2010, with the first event being held at the Newcastle racecourse, it went well with a good turnout however no dogs and no BBQs meant that the venue was a future no-go. The second venue change was to the beautiful Druridge Bay Country Park. Then in 2015 MDF moved to Alnwick Castle and it's pretty safe to say they found their home, with no intentions of moving from the pleasant pastures of the castle's grounds.

Damn, that dude is massive!

When the sun drops the party really gets started...

Big Bobble Hats
KX52 YSZ

This Audi Quattro was a beauty

Slappin da bass

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Fancy a trip to Mighty Dub Fest 2023? Then stick the 16-18th June in your diary and keep an eye on www.mightydubfest.com for the latest updates.

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An example of the best of Scottish Baronial architecture, Craigievar fits naturally amongst the rolling hills of Aberdeenshire. The elegant princess pink tower of Craigievar Castle is spellbindingly beautiful, sure to enchant children and adults alike... who knows, you may even spot a fairy tale prince or princess.

Begun around 1576 and completed by c1626, this iconic tower house is amongst the best preserved and the most loved in Scotland. Craigievar was a family home until the 1960s, creating a quirky blend of modern comforts and rare antiquities within the ancient walls.

The grounds are equally bewitching with an unusual Scottish glen garden, two waymarked woodland trails, and Victorian kitchen garden. In early summer the woodland floor glows with bluebells. Keep an eye out for red squirrels or even pine martens scurrying through the undergrowth.

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FIRST-CLASS FREEDOM

ABT Sportsline's all-new €150,000 XNH camper aims to bring a five-star living experience to the T6.1 platform. Welcome to the new high-water mark of luxury camping...

Words **Sam Preston** Photography **ABT**

With countless Transporters around the globe already sporting ABT Sportsline's beautifully crafted exterior styling upgrades, you'd be forgiven for not paying too much attention to the firm's recently launched XNH model here.

Just another body-kitted T6.1, right? No, actually – far from it. The XNH (Explore New Horizons) is in fact the Bavarian company's first foray into offering a complete camper van experience, encapsulating its rich 125-year history to ensure this is undoubtedly one of the most sumptuous ways of bringing the great outdoors to your doorstep.

We probably don't need to remind you that ABT Sportsline is the world's largest tuning provider for vehicles from the VW Audi-Group, producing range-topping styling parts and performance upgrades that are often developed alongside the manufacturers themselves. The firm was also responsible for the short-lived ABT e-Transporter in collaboration with Volkswagen a few years back.

Away from the road and onto the track, ABT Sportsline's heritage arguably only gets stronger, being the chosen company to represent Audi in race series such as DTM and Formula E in recent years.

Developing a camper van might seem like a bit of a departure for ABT Sportsline, then, but it's actually managed to combine a number of its areas of expertise - such as reducing weight, managing green power and, of course, creating something truly luxury - to produce a product that's arguably never been seen to this standard before in the world of Transporters. But enough back-story. Let's take a closer look…

It may be one of the least fettled-with parts of the package, but the exterior is still worthy of some attention first. ABT unconventionally started with the long-wheelbase version of the T6.1 to supply some much-needed extra room over the likes of Californias, opting for the suave Ascot Grey body colour to set off its much-loved body kit all-round.

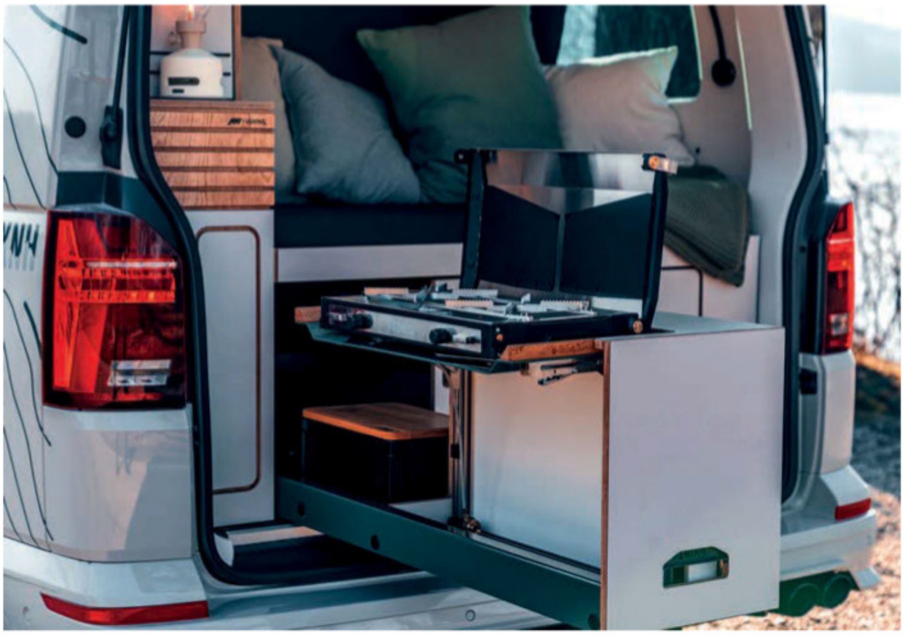
The outside is topped off with some

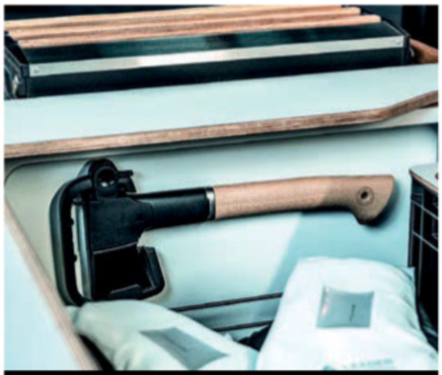
18" ABT Sportsline XNH wheels with Goodyear Eagle F1 rubber

“Just another body-kitted T6.1, right? No, actually – far from it”

THULE
XNH
EXPLORE NEW HORIZONS.

ABT Sportsline's camper is as fully loaded as they come





TOP MOD: FISKARS AXE

Come on… how could our Top Mod NOT be the Fiskars N7 chopping axe neatly stashed away in the pull-out rear storage area?! We can't think of any other factory vehicle that offers such an accessory as standard. It's all part of that neat integrated VANING pull-out storage section that also features oodles of storage and even a twin-burner hob set under the LED-lit tailgate. This van is so adventure-ready it almost hurts…

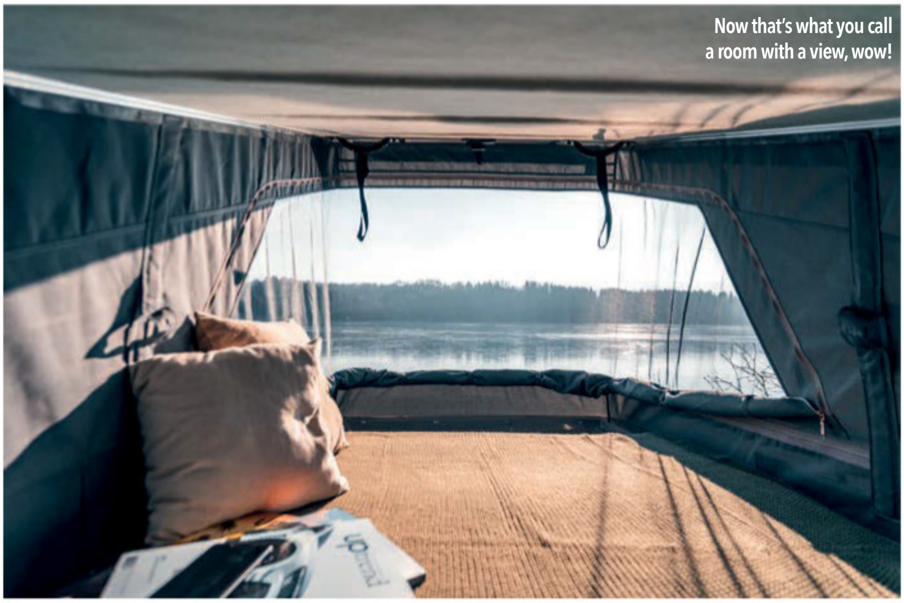
“ABT worked alongside German interior expert VANING to create this wood-panelled work of art, that’s as functional as it is good-looking”

bespoke 18” wheels that ABT built exclusively for the XNH – a rugged 10-spoke design topped off with chunky Goodyear rubber to give a subtle nod to the capable swamper look that’s so on-trend right now. This functional aesthetic is only heighted with the likes of the Thule rear bike rack and side awning.

The drivetrain choice for the XNH is the trusty 2.0 TDI 150ps motor which surprisingly remains stock – if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it, we guess! You do get the DSG gearbox, though, making that Discover Pro-kitted cabin up front feel like nothing short of a luxury car.

But if you think the cabin’s luxury, wait ’til you open that sliding side door and are greeted to the XNH’s real party piece – its unbelievably beautiful rear living area. ABT worked alongside German interior expert VANING to create this wood-panelled work of art, that’s as functional as it is good-looking, as we’ll find out now as we delve into the finer details.

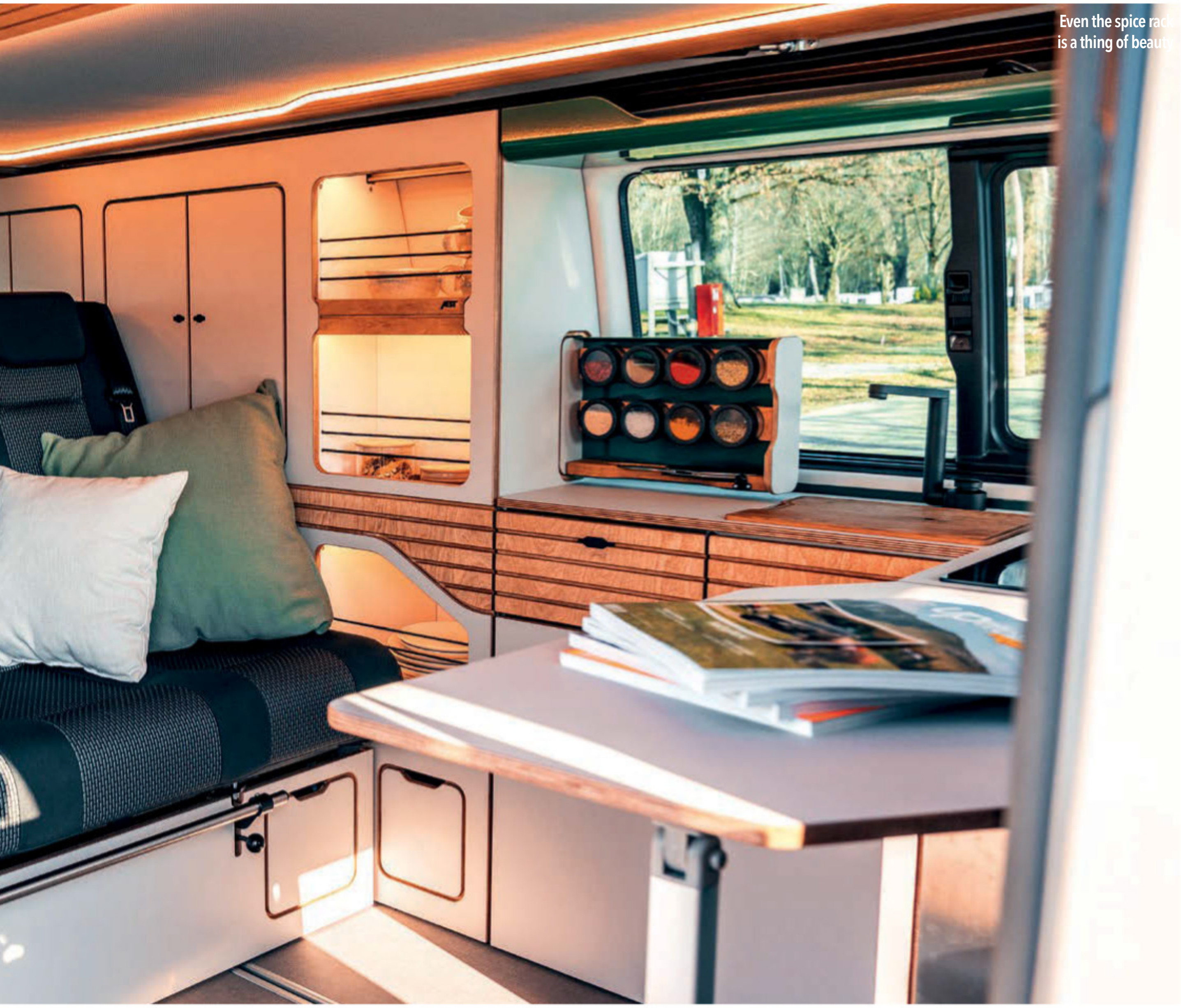
Generously sized windows made from noise-reducing glass shed natural light over the three-seater Reimo bed/bench, with VANING’s stunning side kitchen unit seamlessly wrapping around and boasting amenities such as Auer storage components, a Caso induction hob, a Dometic fridge and a brushed stainless-steel sink. ABT is understandably proud of its green credentials here, with sheep’s wool and recycled materials supplying the insulation, and the wooden panelling and other natural surface materials providing a soft, tranquil feel as you step inside.



Now that’s what you call a room with a view, wow!

As we tear ourselves away from the endless hidden storage areas that we imagine would all help to make any camping excursion that little bit less stressful, we next check out the sleeping arrangements. As well as the aforementioned Reimo bed on the lower level, there’s also a beautifully presented double bed within the SCA pop-top, too – with the bedding for both set off with colour-coded magnetic thermal mats for all windows, as well as the deliciously retro-looking KOOKOO LED lamp/Bluetooth speaker.

For trips where the weather is on your



Even the spice rack is a thing of beauty

side, the XNH is equipped with a second kitchen setup in the form of the VANING pull-out unit at the rear, which not only boasts a Primus twin-hob cooker, but also even more hidden storage space should you need it.

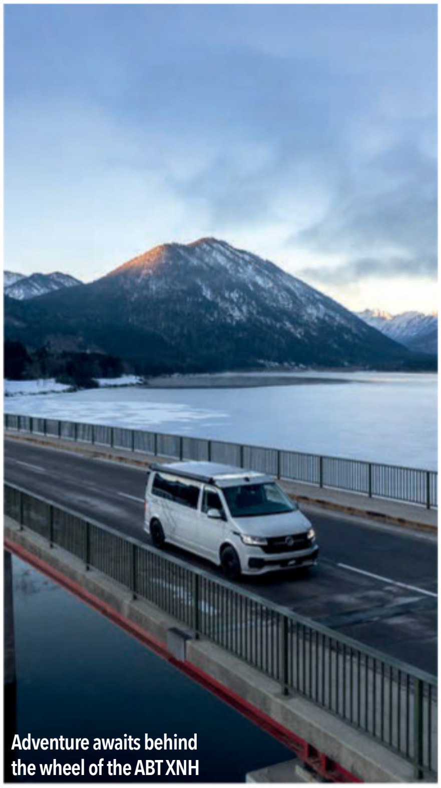
As well as keeping weight down wherever possible, ABT has pushed the XNH's lean, green capabilities further by utilising its Formula E tech to help provide a cutting-edge power system for the camper. An enlarged 352Wp PV solar panel on top of that pop-top roof effortlessly supplies a 1900Wh second battery through an LPS II all-in-one power system. In theory, the van should be very much self-sufficient, but there's of course a Melf-Box charging port in case you're pitched up somewhere for a while.

As it received its grand unveiling back in February at the f.re.e Trade Fair in Munich, ABT Sportsline's Managing Partner, Hans-Jürgen Abt was enthusiastic about the XNH launch and told us. "You will hardly find a more modern and high-quality vehicle on the market in this segment," he said. "We are addressing those who want to expand their horizons and for whom maximum comfort is the ultimate form of freedom." A good way to sum it all up, we reckon.

Thanks to ABT's close connections with VW, you'll be pleased to hear the XNH is assembled by VW Group Services itself, with examples set to be on sale in various official VW dealerships across Germany soon. Think of it as the 'next step up' to a California, if you will.

Sadly, the downside is the fact that at present, there's no solid plans to bring out a UK version. A quick chat with Neil from Milton Keynes-based Richter Automotive (the official UK agent for ABT Sportsline), confirms that there is hope for anyone who wanted to import a German version over for the time being, though – give the team a call if you're interested.

Another slight hurdle to XNH ownership might be price, depending on how deep your pockets are. It's currently weighing in at just shy of €140,000 before options, so you can expect to fork out around €150,000 for a nicely-specced example. We guess that's just the cost of shear camping perfection…



Adventure awaits behind the wheel of the ABT XNH

2023 VW T6.1 MODIFICATIONS:

Engine: 2.0-litre TDI, 7-speed DSG transmission, front-wheel drive

Chassis: 18" ABT Sportsline XNH alloy wheels in gloss black, 255/45/18 Goodyear Eagle F1 Asymmetric 6 tyres

Exterior: Ascot Grey body, full ABT Sportsline body kit (with front skirt, rear skirt with quad exhaust trims and gloss black front grille), custom ABT Sportsline XNH topographic foil graphics/badging, noise-reducing laminated glass windows all-round, heated and folding wing mirrors, Thule Omnistor 4200 awning, Thule bicycle carrier tailgate, tow bar, Melf-Box outdoor socket and charging cable

Interior: VW Discover Pro cabin with heated/swivelling seats, full ABT Sportsline camper conversion with wood panelling/scratch-resistant surfaces, fully flocked interior trim, uprated sound deadening, uprated insulation with sheep's wool and recycled materials, VANING canopy with ambient lighting, fully convertible Reimo sleeping bench (with storage bag, bench trims and shoe rack), VANING side cabinet (with hinged doors and shelves), VANING sideboard with two cups, SCA 292 pop-top roof with uprated 352Wp PV solar panel system, VANING kitchen module (with dining table, drawer, cutlery drawer, shelves, Auer storage components and storage board), VANING spice rack (with magnetic spice can attachment), brushed stainless-steel sink (with oak cutting board and fresh/waste water canisters), Caso Ci3 premium induction hob, Dometic CRX 50 S compressor 45L refrigerator, VANING rear pull-out with Primus Tupike gas cooker/storage space, tailgate window with 2 LED spotlights, interior unlocking and heat-insulating glazing/wiping system, Project Camper magnetic thermal mats for all windows, KOOKOO MoriMori LED lantern/Bluetooth speaker, gooseneck reading light, Vanluv Stash It organiser bag, Fiskars N7 chopping axe, camping chair set, fitted topper mattress, Campbee separate composting toilet, 75Ah leisure battery, Clayton Power LPS II 3012-160 all-in-one lithium power supply

Audio: Discover Pro audio with KOOKOO MoriMori portable Bluetooth speaker system

ABTSOLUTELY FABULOUS

ABT Sportsline has worked closely alongside the VW Audi Group ever since its conception back in 1896. Founding father, Johann Abt, forged the foundations of the relationship, paving the way for more recent company highlights on both road and track.

Following successful Audi racing programmes in the early days, it was with the launch of the Mk1 Golf GTI that ABT Tuning began to develop a name for itself with road car development.

The company evolved into ABT Sportsline in 1991 under the hands of brothers Hans-Jürgen and Christian Abt, propelling it into the powerhouse it's become today. The firm now boasts a raft of potent VW and Audi road car models, as well as manufacturer-backed motorsport teams in series such as DTM, ADAC GT Masters and Formula E. No wonder the XNH is such a well-thought-out and stunning machine!

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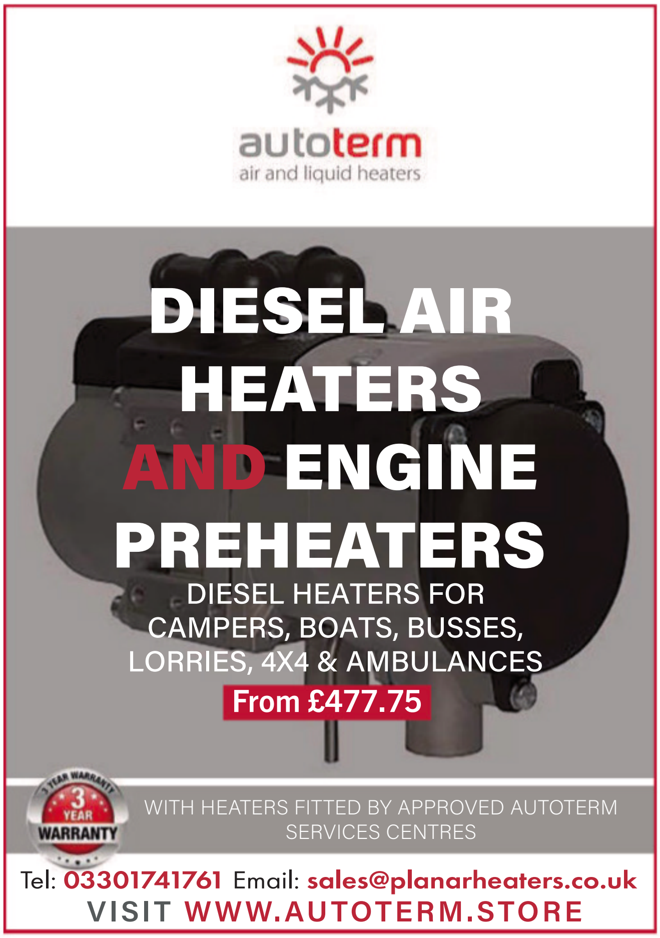

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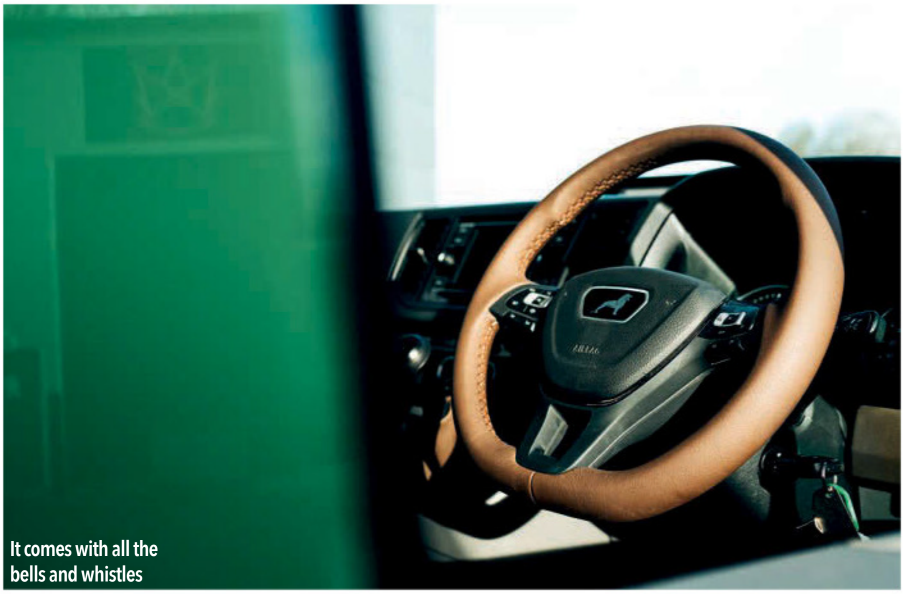
SPINE CHILLER

Want motorhome-like capabilities, a bit of luxury and something tough enough to take on the apocalypse? This mean green Crafter-based Dune 4x4 from Kaktus Vans could be just what you're looking for...

Words **Mark Walker** Photography **Kaktus**



It comes with all the bells and whistles

I've probably mentioned a few times over the years that I'm a bit of an imposter; I began my VW life age 16 in the air-cooled scene and never left. I've owned tons of water-cooled VWs and later Transporters too over the years, but I usually get my kicks from kickin' it old school with a Bay Window. Writing for this mag over the last six years though, there have been plenty of vans that would tempt me into modernity. This is one of those vehicles.

I remember being on a campsite near Mont St. Michel in France about 10 years ago; I'd spent weeks putting a Split Screen Bus back on the road that'd been in a New Mexico junkyard for 40 years, just so I could go on holiday with my then wife and son for a few weeks. After a gargantuan effort, I made my deadline and proceeded to lug a ton of kit around France in a 50-year-old Bus at 45mph.

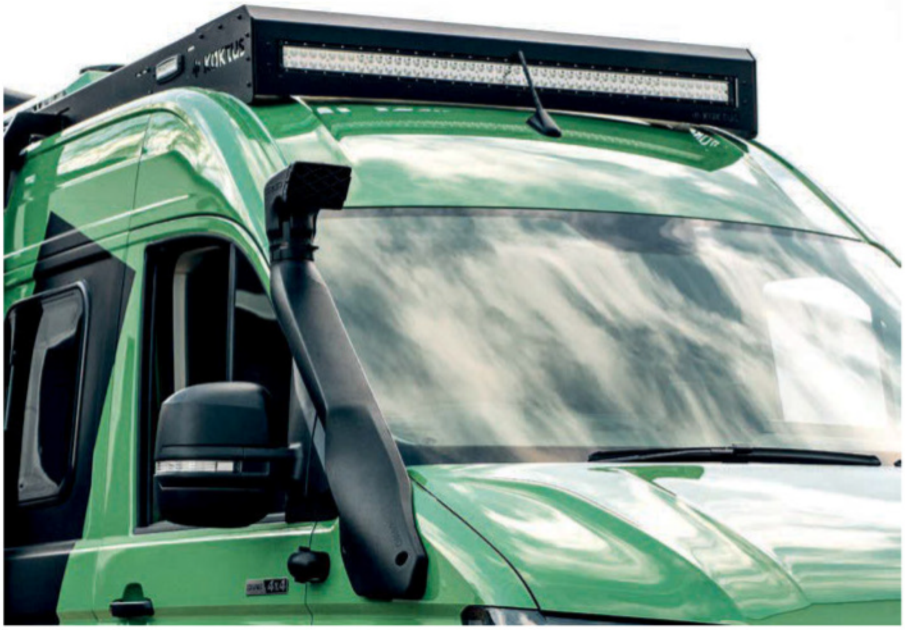
Every stop constituted an epic setup and knockdown, so while I was relaxing with a beer on one such campsite, I began to see why you'd go for a motorhome. At that point in my camping life, it looked like a breeze compared to what I was putting myself through. However, I soon reasoned it away by the look-back test; being able to look back at the vehicle you've travelled to a cool destination in and be in love with the way it looks is priceless in my book.

This Crafter from Kaktus well and truly passes the look-back test. A few years ago, when I worked for a camper converter, I really realised the merits of the extra space in a Crafter, when a guy had us build one with a false floor so his surfboards could slide in under the floor – mind blown! And equally when I saw rear window side pods for the first time, meaning you can sleep across the back of the van, saving a ton of space.

But back then, there wasn't really any kind of aftermarket when it came to Crafters, unlike Transporters. So, the only thing you could do at all to make a Crafter look a bit better back then was to put some aggressive tyres on one. Nowadays,

TOP MOD: EXTERIOR STYLING

As great as the interior looks, it's the outside of the Kaktus Dune that really get my blood pumping – it's so purposeful looking, but not in a frilly and overly augmented way. Although in some parts of our scene, colour-coding is king, the off-grid element - both for the Transporter and the Crafter – employs the use of a lot of black ABS and textured powder-coat for a more stripped-back but purposeful look – colour coding just doesn't look right on these vans.

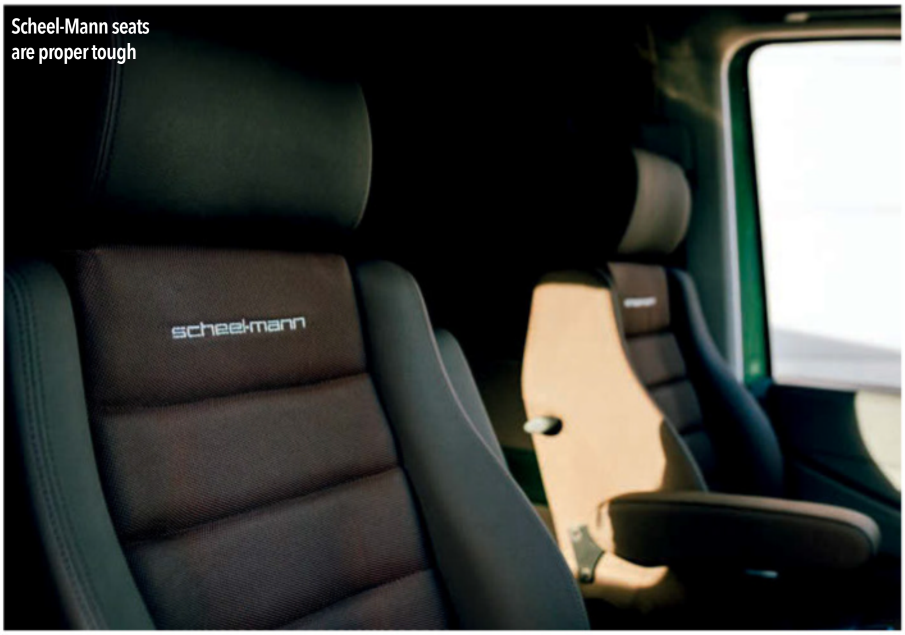


“Open the sliding door and you’re greeted by something that looks like it could be in a superyacht”

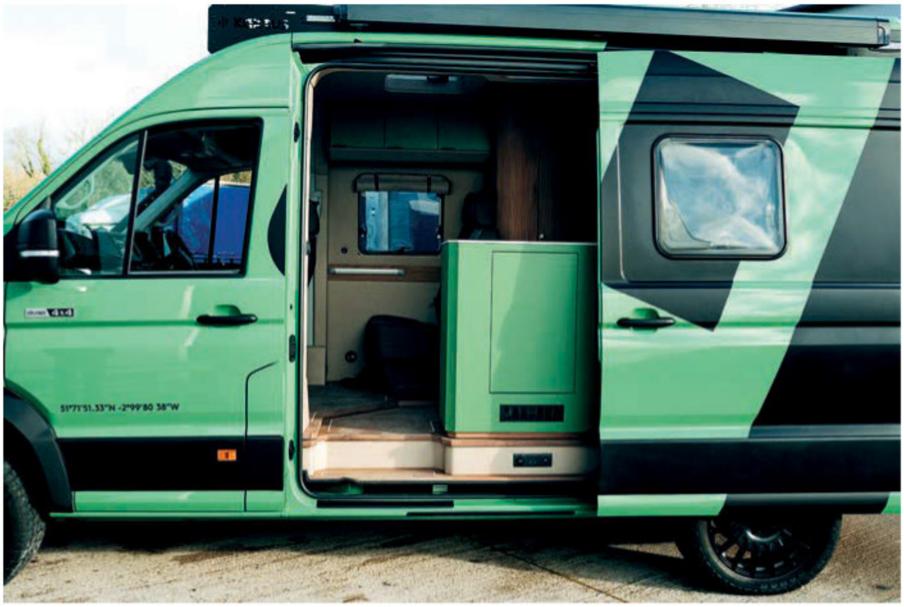
it’s a different matter and as this Kaktus van proves, there is a ton of kit out there to make a Crafter look purposeful, from wheels to suspension packages, snorkels to racks.

The guys at Kaktus have done very well at selecting some amazing products for these vans. Starting with the interior; open the sliding door and you’re greeted by something that looks like it could be in a superyacht, The flooring is yacht grade and the slick cabinets have low-level lighting which looks cool and would make those night visits to the toilet a bit more visible!

The workmanship throughout the interior is exemplary, with an extremely high fit and finish and the beauty of the standard Crafter layout is the permanently made-up bed and ‘garage’ storage area underneath. It’s great to see so much wood, rather than a sea of grey veneers and there’s plenty of kit crammed in under the surface too, from 75L fresh and grey water tanks with level gauges and water heating too, as well as



Scheel-Mann seats are proper tough



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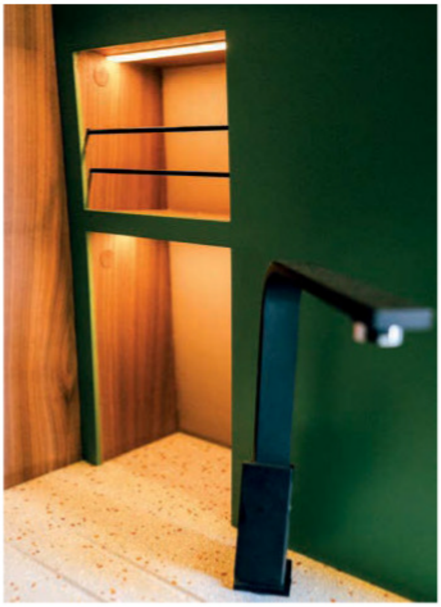
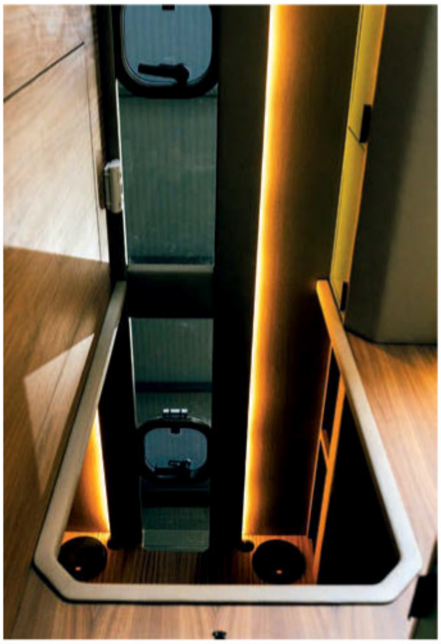


> “Kaktus are fiercely independent just like their customers and they don’t like to follow the crowd”



Glass ceiling panels create plenty of light

cassette toilet (with exterior access point), custom Kaktus sink and shower enclosure.

All of the power control panels are Kaktus branded, which adds to the feeling of a very high-end vehicle and the upholstery and the front Scheel-Mann seats with arm rests are of a slick design looking a little reminiscent of Porsche 914 seats. Another beauty of a Crafter is a living area behind the cab area with real seats, meaning if one person likes a lie-in, the other person or persons can be up and about.

The central raised area in the ceiling has glass panels with a couple of vents, bringing in ventilation and light and the light is kept out of the side windows at night with custom roll-up blinds with leather straps, matching the sublime tan leather of the steering wheel rim, mirroring how the exterior paint colour is carried through to the interior cabinets.

If the interior is pleasing to the eye though, then the exterior is pretty mind-blowing if you’re into Yorkie bars and rugged MAN stuff. With the Kaktus arch spats, ABS styling, Bravo snorkel and the abundance of LED lighting, it looks like it’d take you anywhere on earth without any effort.

The wider 20” wheels fill the arches with aggressive 265/50 off-road tyres and the Kaktus grille and badges really hammer home the edgy and rugged vibe. Being a demonstrator, this van has the Rack Package too – a powder-coated textured black rack with a 300-watt lightbar and 6x side spotlights, there’s also a matching textured black powder-coated spare tyre rack and ladder.

All of this would look cool on a 2WD van and I’m sure there will be plenty of 2WD Crafter owners who mimic the style of this build too, but when all of this kit is on a 4Motion, you really know it means business and can handle everything that the scenery throws at it – this is the Dune 4x4 Edition and was built out of a need for independence, to escape from the grind and to live self-sufficiently.

Kaktus are fiercely independent just like their customers and they don’t like to follow the crowd or do things like they’ve always been done. They are constantly trying to push boundaries and challenge themselves in creating new products with an exemplary fit and finish, but also beauty – just because something is functional,

doesn't mean it can't be beautiful – and these vans are.

Little details like the coordinates on the cab doors and the subtle graphics that almost mimic camouflage all help to add to that purposeful look. But perhaps the greatest thing is that it isn't just a cool-looking van, it's a cool-looking van that's absolutely jam-packed full of the best kit available to keep all its occupants comfortable whether on or off the grid.

There's a 4kw diesel heater to conquer any inclement weather, a 60ltr Vitrifrigo Black Air Lock fridge and an induction hob. There are 2x 75W flexible solar panels and a whole load of Victron kit with smart charging, inverter, smart battery protection and digital control. But there's more – an extra 300W solar panel means you'll never run out of power, and you'll almost never have to plug in.

But how about entertainment? Well, there's a Marine radio with DAB and Bluetooth with 8x JBL speakers and an

Attention to detail is truly mindblowing

MORE OR LESS

It's amazing to see builds like this that are packed full of new kit and have some ground-breaking stuff too. What I find funny and somewhat alarming though, is that campers used to be no-frills and a means of escaping from all mod cons. The more and more kit that seems to get added to camper vans nowadays (and then in a couple of years will be deemed essential) is one of the reasons I still have a romantic notion about camping in a 50-plus-year-old van – it's more luxurious than a tent but only just. But I'm a man of contrasts and I also love a 5-star hotel, so in an ideal world I'd have a classic and a modern van to use at will!

under-seat subwoofer with a separate control. But there's also a 4G WiFi system and a CCTV system with four cameras, recording and remote access. In the bedroom area you get a 10" screen with a firestick for streaming access to various channels, so you'll never be bored camping out in the sticks.

All in all, I love the whole package being offered here. It's one of those vans that could very well tempt me away from air-cooled ownership, especially in a few years when I can no longer be arsed to be really hands-on when I'm away camping. I love the idea of the effortlessness of one of these vans, as well as that killer look. I've never been one to build vans for other people's approval, but you can bet you'd turn a ton of heads in one of Kaktus' vans too. Fancy one? Hit up www.kaktusvans.co.uk for more information.

KAKTUS.VANS

OWNERS

Name: Kaktus Vans
Occupation: Van convertors
Location: Pontypool
Instagram: @kaktus.vans
Website: www.kaktusvans.co.uk

2023 KAKTUS DUNE CRAFTER 4MOTION CR35 TDI MODIFICATIONS:

Engine: 4Motion 2.0 TDI

Chassis: 20" Kaktus wheels, 265/50/20 Radar Renegade AT-5 all-terrain tyres,

Exterior: Bravo Snorkel, rack package, powder coated roof rack with 300-watt lightbar and 6x side spot lights, powder coated wheel rack with reversing spotlight, powder coated ladder, Kaktus side sleeping flares, Kaktus Roof Pod with 2x opening hatches, 2x fully opening side windows, Kaktus arch kit & grille, Kaktus badges, 4x front bumper spotlights, 75-litre freshwater tank with hose and electric pump fill, 75-litre waste tank with pumped empty, tank heaters, gauges for both tanks on the Cerbo control panel, Gulper pump for wastewater, external water pump

Interior: Sound deadening and thermal insulation throughout the van with Dodo Mat and Thermal Fleece, Marine vinyl wall trims, front Scheel Mann seats with arm rest, front seat swivels, retractable hand brake, rear seats with 2x seat belts, trimmed to match the front seats, steering wheel and dash trims to match seats, table stored in the garage, LED lighting throughout, real wood boat style flooring, real wood veneer furniture, lightweight coloured galley kitchen, matching HPL in bathroom, wooden grate in shower tray, all internal structures in lightweight plywood, memory foam double bed with custom Kaktus cover, slide-out ladder to access the bedroom, 12v / 240v 6-litre water heater, full pressurised water system, bathroom comprising of Kaktus custom sink, cassette toilet with main tank water feed flush, hot and cold tap and the shower, external hatch for cassette, vent in the toilet with switch, 4kW diesel heater, VitriFrigo 60ltr black air lock fridge, solid surface kitchen work top and slide out worktop, induction hob, 2x 75W flexible solar panel, Victron Cerbo GX with 7" touch screen on the control panel, Victron SmartSolar MPPT, Victron MultiPlus 12/1600/70 inverter charger, Victron Lynx Power In, Victron Orion-Isolated DC-DC charger, 2X 100 Ah lithium batteries, Victron solar control with an external point for up to 300 watts extra solar, Victron Smart Battery Protect, Victron Smartshunt, digital multi control, 240v consumer unit, Victron Shore Power Inlet 16A stainless steel with cover plus the cable, Kaktus switch control panel, 13amp socket, 3x 12v sockets, 3x twin USB chargers, 230v electric sockets

Audio: Marine Radio with DAB and Bluetooth, under seat subwoofer, 8x JBL speakers, 4G WiFi system, CCTV system with 4 cameras, recording and remote access, 10" screen in the bedroom area with Firestick

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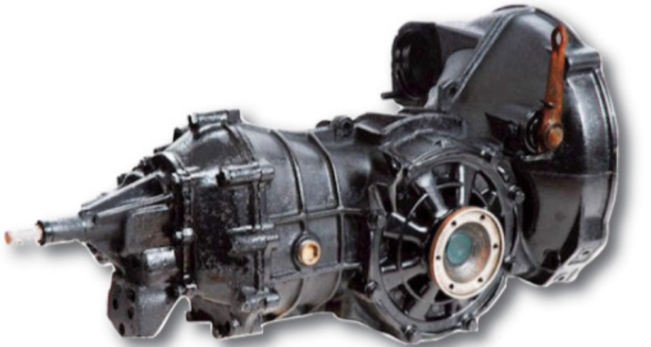

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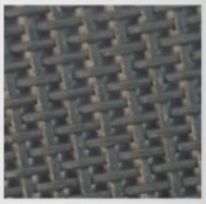
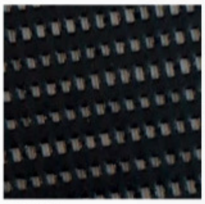
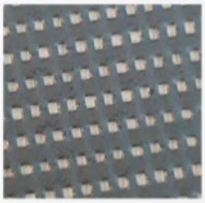

MIDGE MESH.

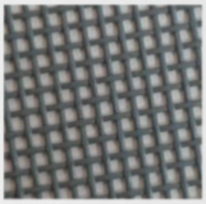
EXTREME MESH


BLACK.


ANTHRACITE.

IN. ALU.
OUT. ANTHRACITE.

EXTRA DURABLE FABRINET MESH


GREY.

BLACK.

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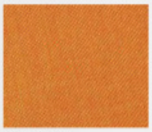
GREY.

ROYAL BLUE.


ORANGE.

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MARINE GRADE POLYESTER

ROYAL BLUE.

SUNSET RED.

AQUA MARINE.

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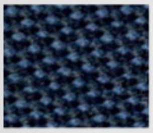
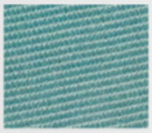
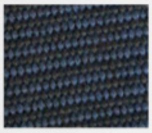
ACRYLIC


RIVIERA BLUE.


SKY BLUE.


MIDNIGHT TWEED.

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MAKE.	MODEL.	FRONT.	REAR.	SLIMLINE.	HIGH LIFTER.	SEMI SLIM.	FRONT W/SPOILER.	REAR W/SPOILER.	SIDE.	VERTICAL.	M1 TESTED.
	T5/T6 SWB	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	T5/T6 LWB	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	T4 SWB	●	●		●				●	●	
	T4 LWB	●	●		●				●	●	
	Caddy SWB		●								
	Caddy Maxi LWB		●					●			
	Vito/Viano/VClass MK1, 2 & 3 SWB	●	●							●	●
	Vito/Viano/VClass MK1 & 2 LWB	●	●							●	●
	Vito/Viano/VClass MK1, 2 & 3 ELWB	●	●				●	●		●	●
	Vito/Viano/VClass MK3 LWB	●	●			●				●	●
	Sprinter SWB (also fits Semi HighTop)	●	●		●		●	●		●	
	Sprinter MWB (also fits Semi HighTop)	●	●		●		●	●		●	
	Trafic SWB Old & New Shape	●	●				●	●		●	●
	Trafic LWB Old & New Shape	●	●				●	●		●	●
Ford	**Transit MK6/MK7 SWB**	●	●				●	●		●	
	Transit Custom SWB	●	●				●	●			●
	Transit Custom LWB	●	●				●	●			●
	Connect SWB Old & New	●	●				●	●		●	
	Connect LWB Old & New	●	●				●	●		●	
NISSAN	NV200 Slimline	●	●				●	●			
	NV300 SWB	●	●				●	●		●	●
	NV300 LWB	●	●				●	●		●	●
	Primastar SWB	●	●				●	●		●	●
	Primastar LWB	●	●				●	●		●	●
	Elgrand E50	●	●				●	●			
	Elgrand E51 & E52	●	●				●	●		●	
	Serena	●	●				●	●			
FIAT	Scudo MK2 SWB	●					●				
	Scudo MK2 LWB	●					●				
	Talento SWB	●	●				●	●		●	●
	Talento LWB	●	●				●	●		●	●
	Doblo LWB	●	●				●	●			
	Ducato SWB 2006+ (fits Semi HighTop)	●	●				●	●		●	
	Dispatch/Jumpy MK1 SWB	●					●				
	Dispatch/Jumpy MK2 SWB	●					●				
	Dispatch/Jumpy MK2 LWB	●					●				
	Dispatch/Compact MK3	●	●				●	●			
	Dispatch/Vivaro MK3 MWB	●	●		●		●	●			
	Dispatch/Vivaro MK3 LWB	●	●		●		●	●			
	Relay SWB 2006+ (also fits Semi HighTop)	●	●				●	●		●	
	SpaceTourer MWB	●	●		●		●	●			
	SpaceTourer LWB	●	●		●		●	●			
	Granvia	●	●				●	●			
	HiAce SWB	●	●				●	●		●	
	HiAce LWB	●	●				●	●		●	
	Regius	●	●				●	●			
	Alphard	●	●				●	●			
	ProAce MK2 SWB	●					●				
	ProAce MK2 LWB	●					●				
	ProAce MK3 Compact	●	●				●	●			
	ProAce MK3 MWB	●	●		●		●	●			
	ProAce MK3 LWB	●	●		●		●	●			
	Partner SWB (spoiler optional)									●	
	Boxer SWB 2006+ (also fits Semi HighTop)	●	●				●	●		●	
	Expert MK1 SWB	●					●				
	Expert MK2 LWB	●					●				
	Expert MK3 Compact	●	●				●	●			
	Expert MK3 MWB	●	●		●		●	●			
	Expert MK3 LWB	●	●		●		●	●			
	i800 SWB	●	●				●	●			
	i-Load SWB	●	●				●	●			
	Bongo Small	●	●				●	●			
	Bongo Big	●	●				●	●			
	Vivaro Old & New Shape SWB	●	●				●	●		●	●
	Vivaro Old & New Shape LWB	●	●				●	●		●	●
	Vivaro MK3 MWB	●	●		●		●	●			
	Vivaro MK3 LWB	●	●		●		●	●			

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Dave gets stuck into the roof

Glenn's **T5.1 LWB PANEL**

As modifications go, they don't get much bigger than someone chopping a hole in your roof...

I've been tinkering with and modifying vehicles since I was a 17-year-old, so that's 20 plus years now (and then some! – G). I've swapped engines, fitted countless air bags, painted them colours that many would think not wise – I'm talking metallic poo brown with a cream engine bay – and even had to help drill holes in the roof of a colleagues Nissan R32 Skyline. That was to fit some flashing Japanese police lights to a replica Tokyo highway pursuit police car we were building for the Gumball 3000 Rally, as you do. But, despite all of this, nothing quite prepared me for the thought of a person/s I've never met cutting a substantially large hole in my van's roof.

Yep, that's correct, it's pop-top time. Probably one of the biggest jobs you'll ever get done on your van and a job where you really, and I mean really need to trust the company doing it. There are plenty of companies that offer this service, which is great, but also scary, as it's not like there's a degree in fitting pop-tops and there's a lot of companies that will 'do the job'. This is certainly an area where if the price seems too good to be true, then it probably is. I am not saying you're going to get charged more, but you'll more than likely get what you paid for and pay for it in other ways further down the line.

Luckily for me, living in the South West there's quite a few reputable pop-top specialists, however, one of them stands head and shoulders above the rest, and that's Skyline Roofs. There are a few reasons for this, as long as I've been into Transporters, I've seen Skyline roofs on vans all over the UK and Europe. We've featured tons of Transporters with them in the mag and I've seen and checked out countless vans with their roofs at the shows. And there's a good reason for that, Skyline have over 450 traders throughout the UK and mainland Europe – they even have a dealer in Lithuania, how's that for coverage? Plus, they produce over 4,000 roofs a year, that's over 300 a month and they are all made at their North Somerset HQ. You won't find any corners being cut in the production of these pop-tops, in fact if you have one fitted at their HQ – like I am – they even welcome you to have a look at exactly how they make them.

These are all things that helped build my confidence in not just the Skyline brand, but the people behind it. As I wondered around their vast workshops on the

Skyline produce over 4,000 pop-tops a year

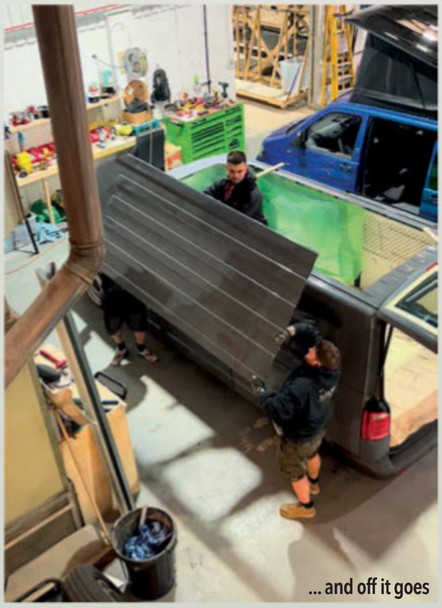
There's no going back now

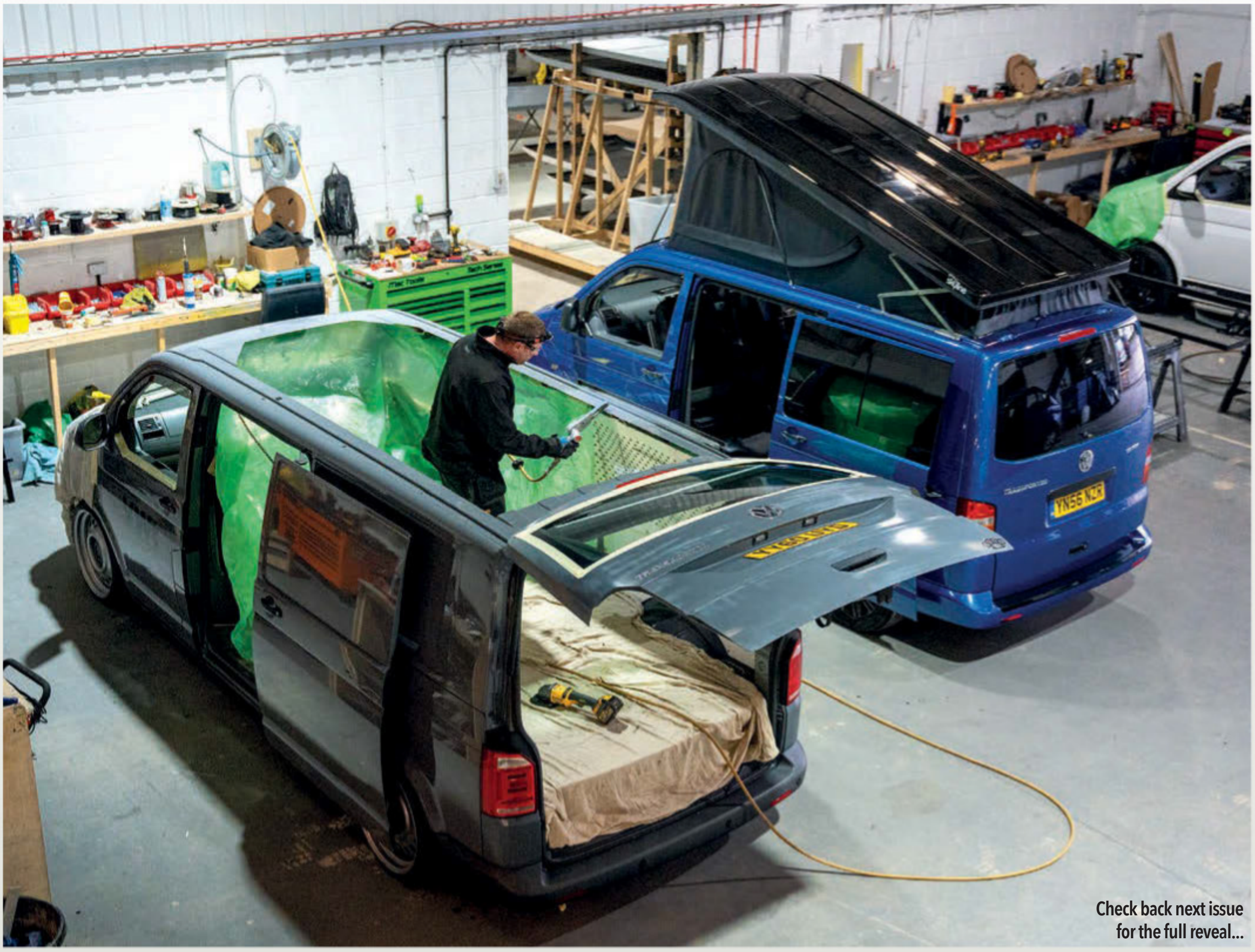
day of fitting, everything just shouted industry leading craftsmanship, customer service and after care. From director Adrian Braham to Sam Carter and his friendly office staff, to the fitters (more about them later), to Aaron and Lewis the two lads out the back polishing and finishing the roofs, everyone takes real pride in their work. "Every single Skyline roof starts with us and then they get sent out all around the world, it's really cool" one of them enthusiastically tells me.

After a walk about the time soon came for the roof cutting to start, gulp! But my nervousness soon turned to excitement when the first fitter introduced himself as Dave Frost and then told me "You've got nothing to worry about, I've been doing this over 20 years, I've fitted thousands of these." He was followed into action by fellow fitter and brother Sam Smith, who has also been doing it not far off two decades and previously worked for Danbury. That's some serious experience between the two of them.

They soon got to it and started covering and prepping the van ready for it to be operated on. I'll be honest, I am not too precious over this van and told them so.

Up it goes...


... and off it goes



Check back next issue for the full reveal...

However, they still ensured me that everything would be done as it should to make sure everything is protected and well looked after, true professionals. As I stood back and watched them work in tandem from the customer viewing gallery, it was full steam ahead as they measured, marked up and drilled some guide holes in preparation for cutting the roof ready for removal. Then the reciprocating saw burst into action, they worked their way around the roof and within no time at all another fitter went into the van, popped up holding my roof aloft his head and it was gone. Goodbye, no going back now, my roof was no more, it was quite a surreal moment.

Next it was time to prep the framework that the pop top would fit onto, but more on that next month as it seems I've run of space, so check back next issue for the full reveal!

VW T5.1 LWB PANEL VAN

Owned since July 2020

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Gloss black finish £
Black scenic canvas £

Total: £TBA

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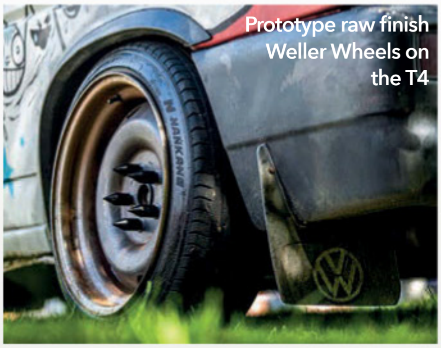

Prototype raw finish Weller Wheels on the T4

17x8"BBS Pininfarina

17x8" Nothelle N-Classics

The steels with big tyres on a New Defender

The difference a tyre makes…

Andrew's **T5.1 LWB PANEL**

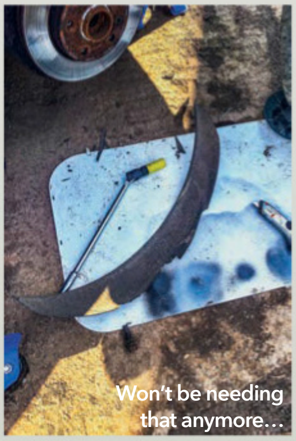
The winter 16s are off and a set of 18" banded New Land Rover Defender steel wheels are on...

We are spoilt for wheel choice when it comes to our vans, don't you think? There are so many good options that fit off the shelf and many more that need just a few mods to work, but something I always come back to is a steel wheel. They just work on vans so well. I've photographed a few vans for features recently with different Navis steels and they all look incredible.

Since owning this van I've only ever ran steels on it, and I've managed to not go down the alloy wheel rabbit hole. However, there are a lot of steel wheel options for Transporters, and it can be easy to get carried away, this is my third set of steels after all… Though with my old T4, on the other hand though I did slip into constantly trying to find the next best thing, like the rare BBS split rims purchased from Latvia (which needed the centre bore and bolt holes enlarged), the 3-spoke Brabus monoblock II's and my favourite wheel - the Nothelle N-Classic. I must admit, if I could find / afford a set of 19" Brabus monoblock II's for the T5 I'd get them, but they are the wrong stud pattern and offset, but with a little bit of work we could make them fit…

Anyway, back to the wheels and steels in question. I had done a good 50K miles over the last couple of years on the 18" Stitches + Steels wheels which looked and fitted perfectly on the van, even when lowered a decent amount. But recently whilst I was on a job photographing a New Defender, I noticed the wheels were 18" and after a little bit of research it looked like they should fit my Transporter, so I got some. Rather than test fitting them first, I got them straight down to Damian at Banded Steel Wheels in Tiverton and he set about widening the rear wheels. With so many people running banded 18" Amarok steels I was confident adding a 1.5" band would work. What we were not so sure on was if my massive balloon rear tyres would fit inside the arches.

Damian worked his magic, the wheels looked awesome,


Won't be needing that anymore…

The rear inner arches had started to rub through already

Test fit before paint, it's close!

and I headed back to my unit to fit them. Surprise, surprise they didn't fit! However, they were very close, I just needed to trim out some inner plastic on the rear arches and they were good to go. The offset of the standard rim is slightly different to my previous 18" S+S wheels and the fronts just caught the arches, so I needed to raise the coilovers ever so slightly – shhh don't tell the Lowdown Transporters lot!

With the rear inner arches trimmed and the front lifted a couple of threads the van was back on the road. It just needed some Rollin' On Steelies stickers to finish the look. I've probably done about 1000 miles on these now and I'm happy to say they are working out great. A big thanks to Damian at Banded Steel Wheels in Tiverton for banding the rear wheels, it really has changed the look of them, and I love it! Be sure to check out www.bandedsteelwheels.com for your custom made steel wheel needs and www.rollinonsteelies.com / @RollinOnSteelies for endless steel wheel inspiration.

Nice and rather snug up front!

The standard centre caps do not fit, but they do rest in place for photos…

More new products from Turtle Wax keeping the van looking fresh

Embossed Rollin' On Steelies sun strip for subtle styling

What other wheel even looks good curbed?

Lloyd's T5.1 - issue 123

Dale's T5 - see pages 40-46

Paul's T6 - coming up next issue

2011 LWB T5.1

Owned since Sep 2020
Mileage: **259k**

Spent this month:
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Widening from Banded Steel Wheels – **POA**
Spigot rings from THQ - **£4.50**
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Contacts:
www.bandedsteelwheels.com
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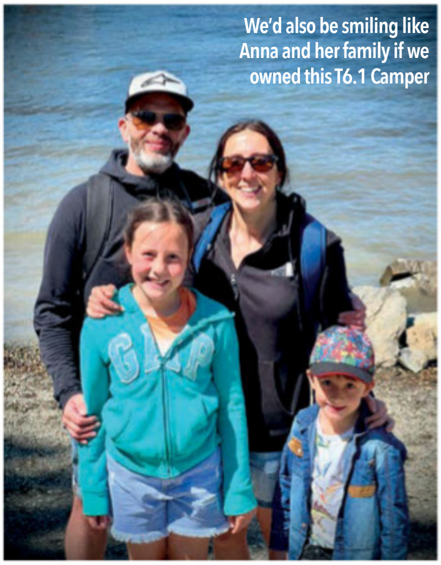
TRUE BLUE

When police sergeant Anna Law went looking for a Transporter and copped a load of this SK Campers built Nevada Blue T6.1, she just knew it was the one...

Words & photography **Jon Cass**

Morley-based SK Campers started in 2014 when Scott Keegan made the switch to camper conversions full time. "I'd worked in the building trade previously then when that trade went downhill, I decided to convert my work van into a camper," said Scott. "I enjoyed doing it so decided to turn it into a trade." Initially Scott offered conversions on a wide range of vans from his garage at home, but as popularity grew for VW Transporters he wisely decided to specialise. Subsequently, Scott moved into purpose-built premises in Leeds and with the help of Greg Arnold, who does the pop-tops, they now produce two full conversions a month with custom jobs fitted in between. Scott's wife, Kerry, is also on board, serving as director, running the admin side of things and keeping social media ticking over.

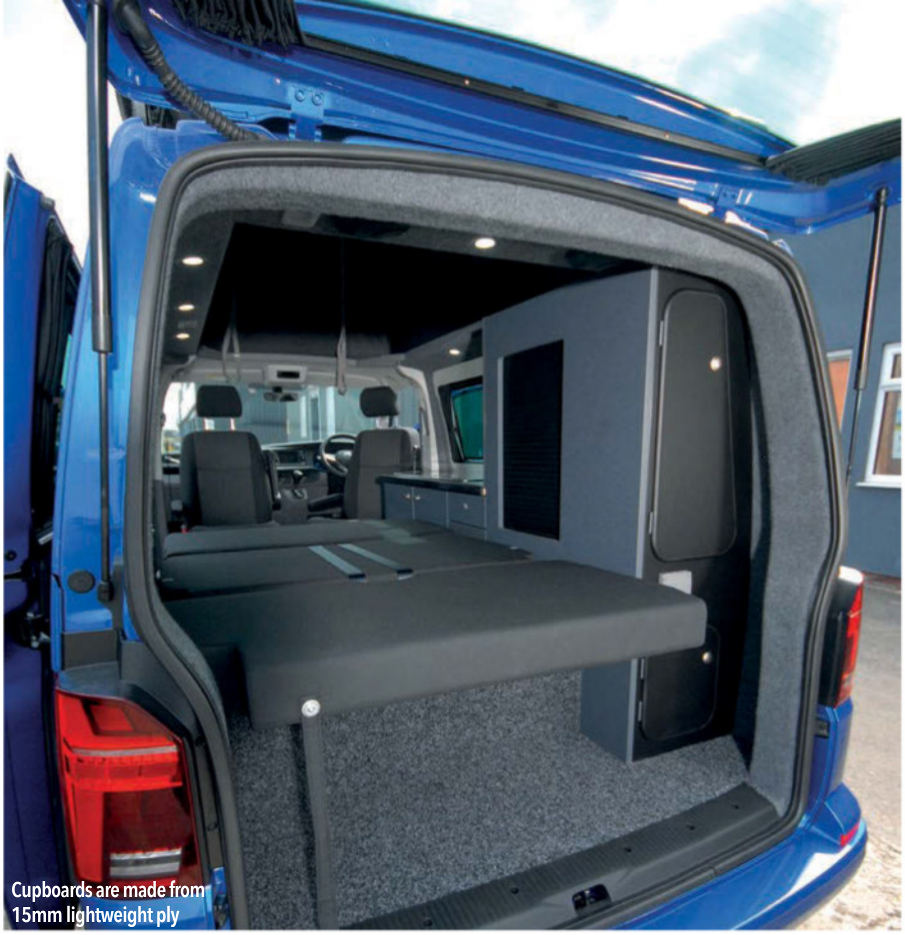
To keep things simple and speed up the whole conversion process from a standard van to a completed camper, SK concentrate solely on SWB VW T6.1s. "All our vans are four-berth with Austop pop-top roofs based on brand new 102 or 150 DSG models," Scott explains, "apart from paint, we do everything in-house and offer bespoke conversions if required. That said, we find most customers are happy with our standard configuration." That doesn't mean every van that comes out of the SK workshops looks the same inside as there


We'd also be smiling like Anna and her family if we owned this T6.1 Camper

are 20 assorted colours to choose from. "We make the cupboards from 15mm lightweight ply," Scott continues, "these are all CNC machined in-house and designed around the appliances you'd also expect to find inside, such as a hob, sink and fridge."

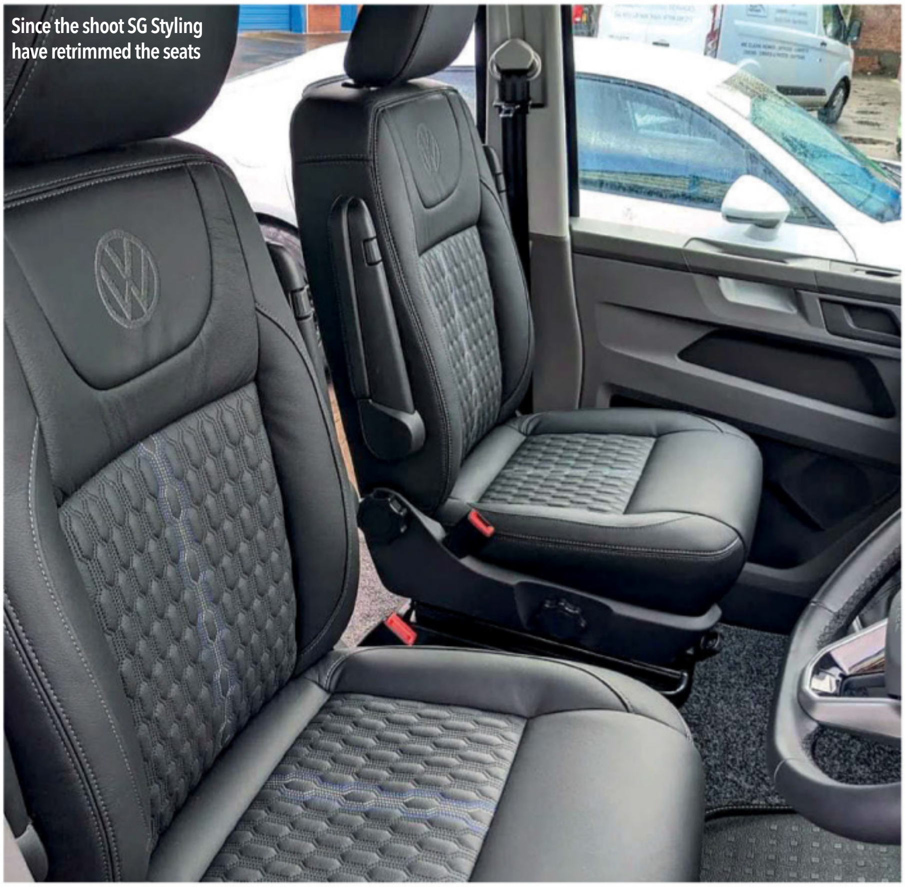
On our most recent visit, Phil Petty from V Tune was on site, working his electrical wizardry. Phil is a regular sight at SK as he specialises in the instalment of security and solar panels, both highly recommended when it comes to VW Transporter ownership. "These vans are highly desirable, but that often attracts the wrong kind of attention, unfortunately," Phil informs us, "trackers and immobilisers are a must and we're finding most customers are specifying extra security on their pride and joy these days."

Wild camping or camping off-grid is also becoming increasingly popular, and Phil also has the answer to retaining that all important supply of power when there's no available hook up. "The quality of solar panels has improved dramatically in recent years, so we fit large, roof-mounted solar panels to most of our conversions," Phil reveals. "We've found the black 150W panel to be the most popular." While lots of companies wire them up by cutting a hole in the roof, Phil prefers to wire his externally to get a neater finish without the need to butcher any metalwork. Phil says a fridge is often a campervans biggest constant drain of power and a 150W solar panel will be enough to keep your food fresh for an ample period without the need for an EHU. "You need to be realistic though, a solar panel is great for charging phones and smaller devices as well as a fridge, but start adding other big drains of power such as hair dryers and microwaves and it would struggle to cope on its own," he tells us, "they're still


Cupboards are made from 15mm lightweight ply

TOP MOD: RIVIERA RF2 WHEELS

Like Riviera's RF101 mesh design wheel, the RF2 has been manufactured using the latest flow forming technology, resulting in a wheel lighter and stronger than previous designs. Available in five stunning finishes and a load rating of 815kg (20-inch only). For more info check out www.rivierawheels.co.uk


Since the shoot SG Styling have retrimmed the seats

There's a Dometic twin burner and sink

worth the investment though."

A big reason SK has become such a popular choice with customers is down to their friendly attitude and aftersales service. Both are essential in a fiercely competitive market, and we weren't surprised to hear these attributes attracted Anna Law to SK when she was browsing for a new camper of her own.

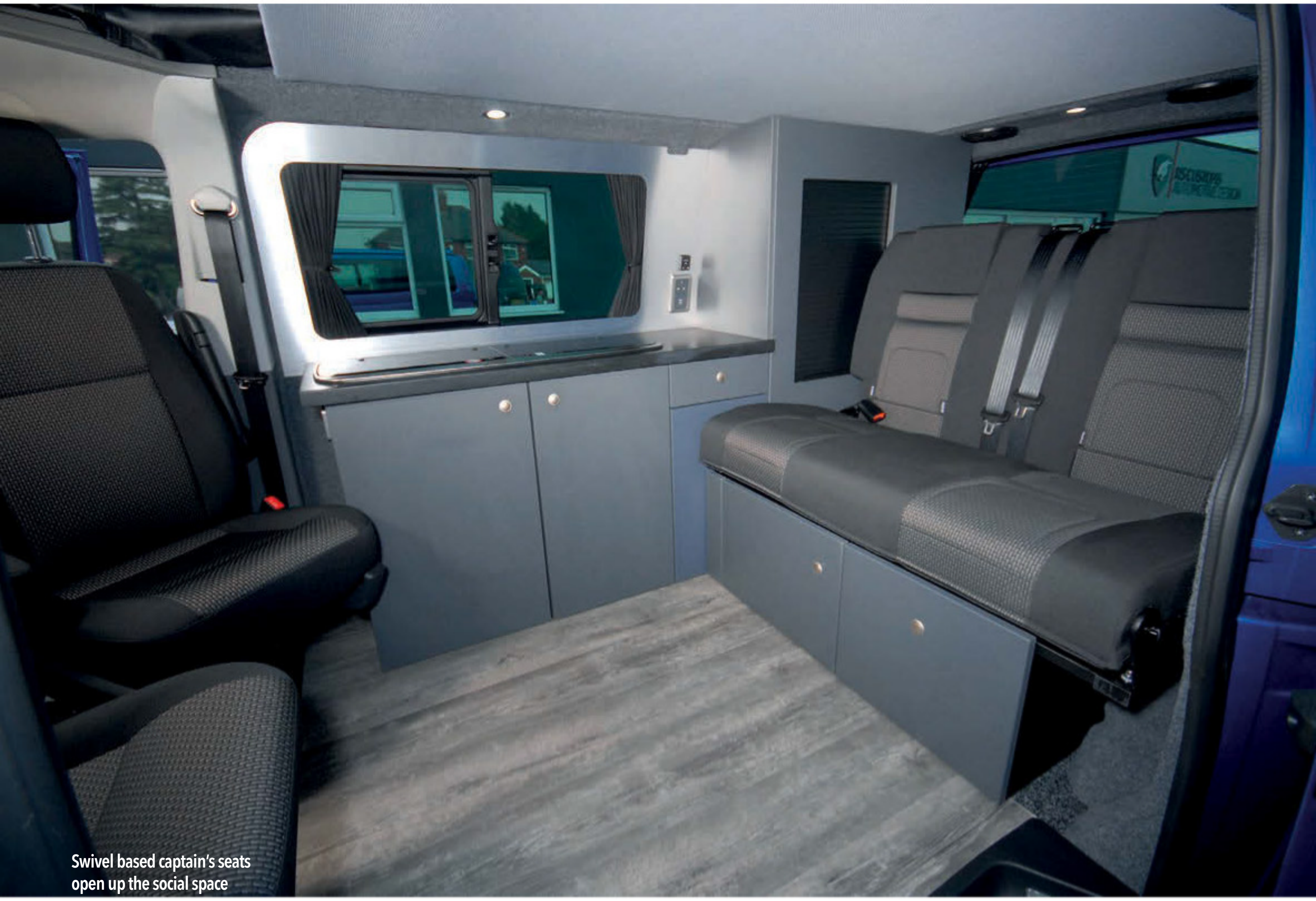
"We came up with the idea during one of the Covid lockdowns," Anna tells us. "As a family, we've always loved the outdoors and knew owning a camper would be a fantastic way to make the most of our time with our young children." Anna's 10-year-old daughter, Isabella, and 5-year-old son, Alex, were both enthusiastic about the idea too. In fact, it would be Alex who would go on to choose the Nevada Blue paintwork for the family T6. "I looked around at various conversion companies recommended by friends at work, but once I'd spoken to Scott and he explained the entire process in detail, I knew I'd made the right choice," Anna smiles, "it seems nothing is too much trouble for him or his team!"

We should point out here, Anna is a police sergeant with 16 years in the force so driving vans is familiar territory. "We normally use Mercedes Sprinters or Ivecos in the police," Anna tells us, "The Sprinters are ok to drive, the Ivecos are more like a tank, but because Anna and her partner, Nick, are self-confessed petrolheads neither came close to the T6.1 in terms of desirability. "I've owned lots of German cars, so a SWB Transporter Highline 150 seemed the logical choice as they're a quality product, practical and make a great daily driver."

On this note, as the Nevada Blue T6.1 2.0TDi was effectively replacing Anna's beloved BMW as her everyday mode of transport, she was keen for it to stand out from the crowd. The front splitter provides extra aggression to the front end and those 20" Riviera RF2 wheels in anthracite really look the part while the VW Sportline lowering springs help out to fill the generous arches. The lowered

"We opted for a California diesel heater which has proved to be a great investment, on cold nights we wouldn't be without it"

Another fantastic build by the team at SK Campers



Swivel based captain's seats open up the social space

stance is further accentuated by the addition of those cool side bars and more recently, Anna has fitted a bike rack too. "We're keen cyclists so a bike rack was a must," Anna smiles, "we now also have an awning, so we had an awning rail fitted as well."

Take a look inside and SK's high standard of finish is immediately apparent, everything is just where you'd expect it to be, and the layout is both neat and deceptively spacious. The grey ply cupboards with push button operated doors, charcoal worktops, and silver trim blend together well to provide an upmarket feel. Along with the essential hob, there's also a Dometic fridge freezer, sink and shower hose mounted at the rear. The Austop pop-top can be erected in seconds, its highly wind resistant, and even with a mattress in place if offers maximum comfort and space while keeping out the elements. As you'd expect, the rear bench folds down into a rock 'n' roll bed so Anna and Nick can keep an eye on the kids from below. The pop-top also houses one of V Tunes' 150w solar panels on the exterior which will no doubt come in handy for boosting Anna's 240v electrical supply. "We opted for a California diesel heater which has

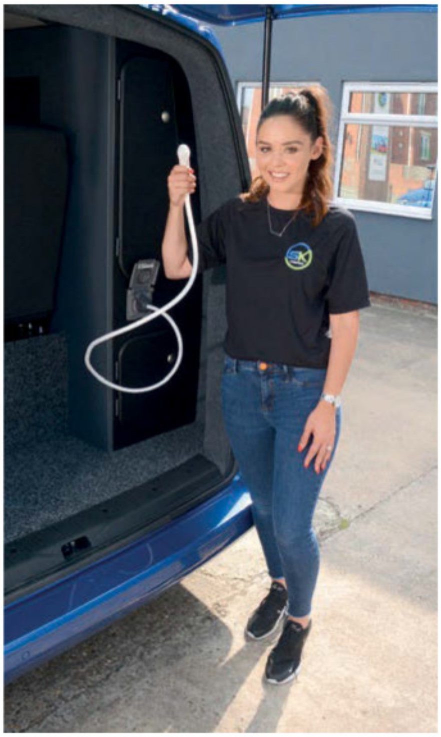
SK CAMPERS

Scott Keegan and his team are always busy working their magic on Transporters. For a closer look at their latest conversions check out **www.skcampers.co.uk or @sk_campers** on Instagram.

proved to be a great investment. On those cold nights it has come in very handy, and we wouldn't be without it now." The standard grey seats, although functional aren't to everyone's taste and Anna recently took the decision to have them recovered in black leather by Leeds-based SG Styling to great effect.

Once Anna and her family took delivery of their eagerly awaited T6.1 they made sure they made up for lost time since, completing camping holidays in the Peak District, Yorkshire Dales, Snowdonia National Park and the Lake District, an excellent selection of destinations we would agree. "We're hoping to travel to Scotland and take the camper abroad in the future," Anna smiles. "So far we've enjoyed every one of our camping excursions and we plan to do many more."

It sounds like this T6 has proved to be a great investment, doubling up as Anna's comfortable, quick, and practical daily driver while also taking her family on multiple memorable holidays.



2021 VW T6.1 150 DSG MODIFICATIONS:

Engine: 2.0 TDI 150bhp DSG

Chassis: 20" Riviera RF2 wheels in anthracite, 275/35/20 tyres, VW Sportline lowering springs

Exterior: Austop pop-top roof, 150w solar panel, Nevada blue paintwork, front splitter, side bars, since shoot fitted a bull bar, bike rack, awning rail

Interior: Full 240v electrics including USB points/ switches/ plugs, water supply with 40L tank, 110amp leisure battery, EC155 charging system and control panel, split load relay charging system, full 35mm insulation, 2x swivel seats, carpets, LED lights, non-slip hard wear Altro floor, rock n roll bed, bespoke CNC made cupboard/units, Dometic fridge, sink, cooker, gas fitted, curtains/blinds, shower hose, soft close door (since fitted) seats recovered in black leather

Thanks to: SK Campers, VTune, Morley cricket Club, LK Performance, SG Styling

"So far we've enjoyed every one of our camping excursions and we plan to do many more"

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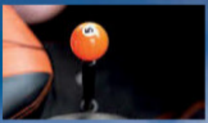
SHOW SEASON SPECIAL BONUS SECTION

There's no business, like show business, like no business we show... or is that know? Anyway, silly songs aside show season has landed. So it's time to fix up, look sharp and turn your van from run-of-the-mill to totally brill!

099 TOP 6 KILLER SHOW MODS
Want your van to be a cut above the rest? Knock 'em dead with these magnificent modifications...

106 HOT WHEELS FOR 2023
Rims maketh the van, here's our hot picks for the yeareth twenty twenty-three



112 50 NIFTY MODS FOR UNDER £50-ISH
Short on cash and stuck for ideas? Here's some tidy touches you can do without breaking the bank...

118 9 AWESOME DRIVE-AWAY AWNINGS
Free up space in your van, have somewhere to store all your crap (and your kids) whilst you headover to the show n shine field...

124 2023 SHOW PLANNER
Our complete guide on where to go this year... VWt Festival ahem!

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6 KILLER SHOW MODS

Want your van to be a cut above the rest at the show? Knock 'em dead with these magnificent mods...

WICKED WHEELS

There are plenty of alloy wheels out there, and very nice they are too. However, to stand out in the crowd you need to take it to the next level...

FORGED WHEELS

There's no getting away from it – forged wheels are expensive. There's a good reason for that though, the process is what you might call a little 'involved.' A forged wheel will start life as a solid block of metal referred to as a 'billet.' This will undergo extensive heat and pressure treatment making the metal less porous than cast wheels improving strength, durability and resistance to corrosion.

With this process, the same structural integrity of a cast wheel can be achieved using a lot less material and this means they can be up to 30-percent lighter – an obvious performance advantage. After this treatment, the billets are forged into different profiles, before being milled on a computer-controlled CNC machine to get the final wheel design.

MULTI-PIECE WHEELS

The inherent strength-giving goodness of the forging process means that super-light wheels can easily be produced in Monobloc (one piece) form. To give the maximum flexibility in width and offset though, the multi-piece wheel or split-rim is king of the streets. Three-piece wheels, comprising of a barrel (inner), centre and outer, can be built up to just about any width or offset enabling fitment to be absolutely spot on without the need for aftermarket spacers. Two-piece wheels are similar, but the centre and barrel will be CNC machined as a one-piece unit, with the outer lip being interchangeable. Handy if you can't keep away from those curbs.

WHEEL FINISHES

Back in the day alloys were painted silver, and that was about it – oh how times have changed! Now there's plenty of other colour options, not to mention polishing, diamond cutting, polished lips and all sorts of finishes available. Most alloys are painted or powder coated simply because they're made from metal that will need protection to withstand the upcoming years of abuse. These thick, protective layers are important and even polished wheels will usually have a coat or three of lacquer to keep the elements away from the metal surfaces. As for chrome wheels? Well, most of the time they're produced with a simple chrome paint – actually putting wheels through a genuine chrome plating process is silly-expensive and pretty rare.

Contacts

Rotiform - **www.rotiform.com**
Navis – **www.naviswheels.com**
West Forged - **www.westforged.com**
Wolfrace – **www.wolfrace.com**
Vossen – **www.vossenwheels.com**
Velare – **www.velarewheels.com**
Radi8 – **www.radi8wheels.com**

GET ACTIVE SUSPENSION

Unless you're riding high and going swamper, you're going to want to go low. After all less altitude equals more attitude...

AIR SUSPENSION

Air suspension isn't as far removed from the conventional shock and spring kits as you may think, in fact modern kits bolt up in the same way as a set of coilovers would. The one big difference is instead of the van sitting on a coil spring, it's sitting on a rubber bellow of compressed air.

Things aren't quite as simple as that though, as while in theory replacing an airbag with a spring potentially gives a smoother softer ride, the reason it's popular in the T5/T6 scene is the fact the suspension height can be raised or lowered. This is made possible as the bags aren't pre-inflated, instead they are fed by an air tank and electric air compressor, allowing the van to be raised and lowered simply by filling the bag with more or less air pressure.

The reason you would want air suspension is because it's a damn good compromise between the full performance but static drop of an aftermarket coilover kit, and a hardcore hydraulic setup which not only isn't good for performance, but in most applications is far from comfortable either. Oh, and slammed vans look so damn cool!

You might be surprised to know that aftermarket air-ride suspension vehicle kits first appeared for sale back in 1920. As well as for comfort reasons, it was used from the outset as self-levelling suspension for heavy loads, and even fitted to the rear of illegal moonshine smuggling vehicles to stop the back-end sagging when loaded up full of booze! One of best-known companies in aftermarket air suspension, Air Lift, have actually been around since 1949, and while we tend to associate air-ride as the total opposite of performance tuning, done right it actually can handle well, and was hugely popular in both drag racing and NASCAR in the 1950s and '60s.

Contacts:
Air Lift - **www.airliftperformance.com**
Solow – **www.solowsuspension.com**
ABP – **www.maxloabpsuspension.co.uk**
MaxLoad – **www.maxloadairsuspension.co.uk**

HYDRAULIC SUSPENSION

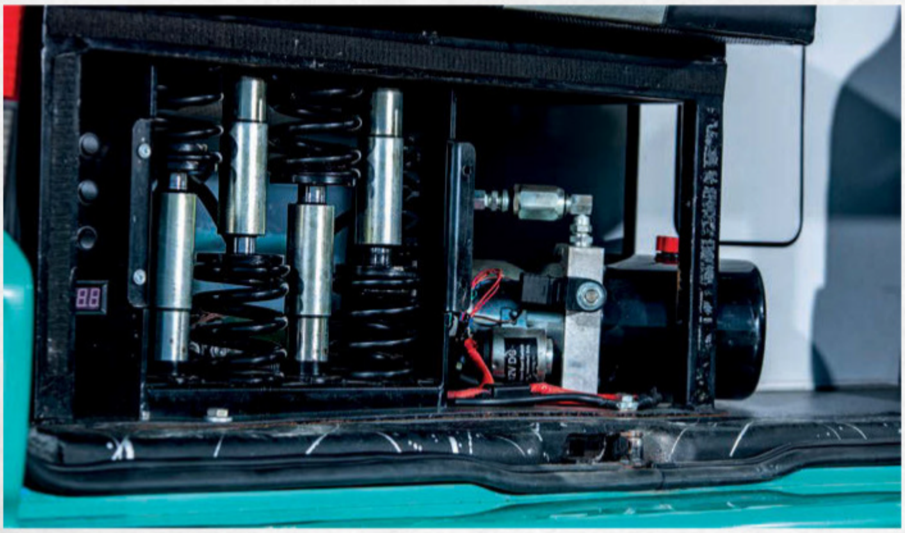
Hydraulics are everywhere on the T4 scene, but very rare on the T5-T6 scene – mainly due to the abundance of air ride options. A hydraulics setup is for the hardcore people, the people who want nothing else from their van aside from it to be able to be dumped to the tarmac in an instant, raised back up just as fast, and depending how trick their system is, able to adjust the height of every corner individually, and at extreme speeds. You want your van to roll on three wheels or literally jump off the ground? Well, you can with hydraulics... if you go far enough.

Just like air suspension, hydraulics are actually pretty simple, but with these the entire original spring and shock assembly are chucked in the bin and replaced with a hydraulic ram, which is the kind of thing you're more likely to see controlling the bucket on a digger, or a crusher, or indeed countless industrial uses where something needs raising or lowering.

As with air-ride, control of the rams is down to electrically operated pumps feeding the fluid to the rams via lines, though all the components, from the rams, the pumps, and the electrics that supply the power and control, tend to be bigger and heavier, so hydraulics are often more expensive and harder to fit than air suspension.

The final thing regarding wanting hydraulics is you need to understand performance and comfort tend to go right out of the window! A full hydraulic setup, especially with the additional electrics needed, are heavy as hell, and ride quality tends to vary from too low to drive and ultra wallowy, to rock solid and uncomfortable, with very little option for a good middle-ground, especially for handling. However, vast improvements have been made of late with Slambassador's most up-to-date kit. Hydraulics first appeared as a tuning modification in the low rider scene in the late '50s, mostly started after a new California law made static drops illegal. At the beginning hydraulic pumps and rams were salvaged from all kinds of things, even scrap bomber aircraft, and were fitted to low riders to allow the ride height to be adjusted at the flick of a switch any time the cops appeared.

DOWN
REAR
FRONT
UP



Contacts:
Rayvern - **www.rayvernhydraulics.com**
Slambassador – **www.slambassador.com**

UP YOUR SEAT GAME

Nothing changes up an interior like a unique pair of perches upfront...

There are many options when it comes to modifying your seats. You could retrim the originals in leather, get custom designed covers, or even get someone like The Seat Surgeons to modify your existing seats. They can strip your seats to the bare mental, add new sports foams – that look more like R8 seats - to the same frame, then recover them in bespoke leather or vinyl.

You could also fit standard seats from a high-end car model. This is often a popular choice, as with a bit of work most seats will fit a Transporter due to the abundance of room and also the higher mounting position, things that most cars don't have that make seat swaps a tad trickier. Popular choices include RS4 Wingbacks, various Golf GTi seats and even Vauxhall VXR Recaros.

Standard perches no matter where they come from will be heavy, so you could look at switching to aftermarket items. In some cases, you could save up to 20kg per seat because many aftermarket items are specifically designed to be light, and manufactured using fibreglass, carbon fibre or even Kevlar... though the latter are quite extreme for a van, however, do look very cool!

There's two main flavours – bucket seats, which have fixed backs and are derived from the racing world. And recliners, which are a little more forgiving. That's an important point, too. Bucket seats are great because they're generally designed to hold you in tight when you're in the corners. For some they may work well on the road, too, but it doesn't mean that everyone will find them comfortable due to the lack of adjustment. We've seen fixed buckets in a few van projects, and they look great, but they are definitely the more hardcore option.

Sports recliners on the other hand tend to be more supportive than standard and a hell of a lot more respectful to your backside which may have to sit in them for hours on end. All we can say here is choose wisely and get yourself parked in a few different types of seat before you commit.

When it comes to fitment, in some respects aftermarket seats are not unlike aftermarket steering wheels. Again, they're universal items that need a tailored adaptor - in this case a subframe or a subplate - to fit your van properly. When you've considered all this there's one last thing to think about – nothing will ever transform your interior quite like a set of unique style seats.

Contacts:
Seat Surgeons – **www.theseatsurgeons.co.uk**
Plush Automotive - **www.plush-automotive.com**
d:class Automotive - **www.dclass.co.uk**
Cobra - **www.cobraseats.com**
Corbeau - **www.corbeau-seats.com**
GSM Sports Seats - **www.sportseats4u.co.uk**

WRAP IT UP

After a completely new look for show season? Then vehicle wrapping could be for you.

Gulf
5
HIPPO
HP03 HPO

Vehicle wrapping is a great way to change the look of your van without the potentially expensive respray. Either the complete van or selected panels are covered with a vinyl film. The films can be overlayed with different colours or printed graphics for a bespoke design.

So, what are the benefits of vehicle wrapping over paint? The main ones are you can change the colour of your van quickly and cost effectively, without the need of a re-spray. Wraps are reversible, so if you want to go back to the way the van was, you can. Van wraps can even protect your original paintwork from sun damage, mild stone chips and abrasions.

A full wrap can cost anything from £1800 to £5,000 and take from two days or more to fit. If they offer to do it in a day, we'd be sceptical, unless they have a very large team focusing on just your van. The price will depend on the size of the van and specific wrap film that you would like to use. The level of detail, i.e. door shuts, handles, mirrors, bumper, and sills will also impact on the price. Costs typically include materials, surface preparation and labour.

Finish wise you can choose from Gloss, Matte, Satin and textured finishes and the cost will vary depending on the level of film you select. Your wrap properly installed and properly maintained, if done by industry leaders 3M is warranted to remain in acceptable viewing condition for three years or 36,000 miles, whichever comes first. They are also warranted to be removable within that period.

Another benefit of 3M wrapping films is that are tested for compatibility with many of the commonly used paint systems in the automotive industry. Decades of experience show their wrap adhesives typically don't chemically react with the paint. However, there are some points to consider to ensure the paint remains unaffected. Paint must be completely dry prior to the application of graphic films. Improper paint repair can have low tack to the van body, meaning that some may be pulled off along with the film on removal.

Something to note however is that when your van's paint is covered by a graphic film, it is better protected against UV rays, dirt, and other mechanical impact than the uncovered areas. So, it may be necessary to machine polish the van to bring both the previously wrapped part and unwrapped part to the same finish and colour.

Fancy a custom printed vehicle wrap or something embezzled with your company on it? 3M Authorised Vehicle Wrappers are all experts in print film design and application so they will work with you to take your ideas to a digital design, print and then apply. They can work with small one-off projects to larger branded fleet wraps.

The last thing about wraps is that they're fully removable and classed as temporary, so you don't have change the colour on the logbook. Unlike a few years ago, the local plod are pretty wise to this now, so it's unlikely you'll be getting a tug and a telling off because: "It says here sir, that your matte black Transporter is meant to be blue."

Contacts:
3M - **www.wrapyourcurves.co.uk**

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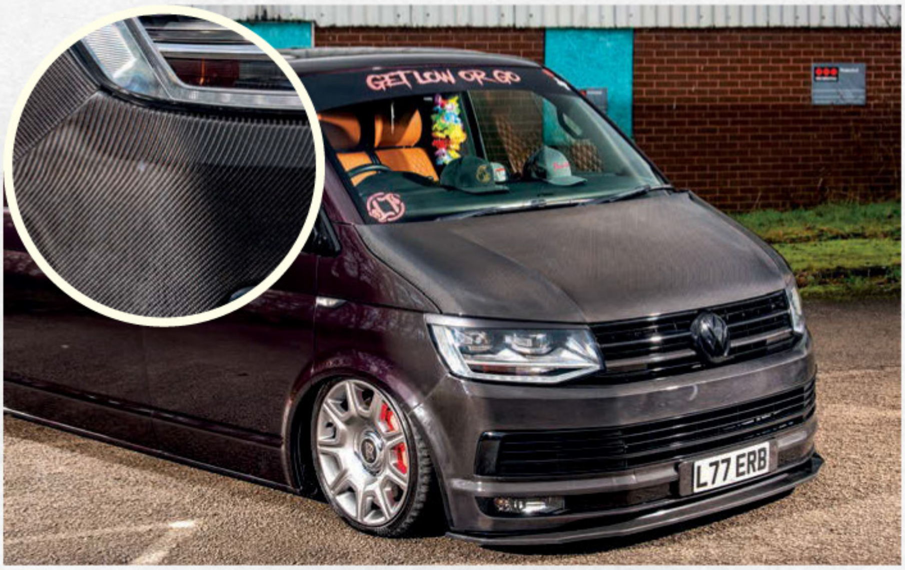
GET SOME CARBON FIBRE

Adding carbon fibre styling to your van won't make it faster... but it sure can make it cooler...



A spot of carbon can go a long way… and a lot of carbon can push your project into the stratosphere. Just look at Lee Herbert's carbon fibre fronted T6 Kombi (above) that we featured back in issue 117. But that's the extreme end of CF, we're talking spoilers, lips, bonnets, diffusers, badges, mirrors, interior details and the like here.

Who cares that plenty of these parts are actually heavier than the original panels? Because they're carbon and they look great. In reality, unless you're building some sort of hardcore racevan where every kilo counts, the performance difference most of these products make will always be negligible... especially on a Transporter that has the aerodynamics of a brick, albeit quite a nice looking brick. The difference a load of the magical weave makes to the kudos points though? Well, that's simply off the scale.

Basically, it all comes down to looks here, looks and deception. And, while we know that fake carbon print – you know the really bad stuff - is a bastard of an invention that you shouldn't touch with a bargepole, any more than you'd buy Geogio Arfani Jeans or somthing from Jimmy Shoes. In fact, most of the 'real' carbon out there is actually a very thin layer of genuine carbon weave soaked in resin and stuck over fibreglass parts. Technically, they have to be heavier than the parts in the first place then, don't they?

In reality, full panels made out of pure, bare carbon are extremely expensive and, because they're not all shiny and don't always have the regular weave we associate with carbon fibre, they don't always look that pretty, either. But then again, I suppose all that's beside the point… because it's carbon.

Contacts:
VW Carbon - **www.vwcarbon.com**
Transporter HQ – **www.transporterhq.co.uk**
VeeDub Transporters - **www.veedubtransporters.co.uk**
Urban Automotive – **www.houseofurban.co.uk**
Van Haven - **www.vanhaven.co.uk**

SOMETIMES LESS IS MORE

Occasionally what you take away can be just as important as what you add...

Though we wouldn't go quite as far now as some of us have in the past when the Euro and Cleaned scene movement tookover – flushing door handles, grills and other expensive bodywork treatments – a bit of light smoothing here and there, still has its place here in the modern world. A popular mod of recent years is the filler flap delete, insuring both sides look the same and smoother. Why they fitted a flap that you have to open the passenger door for anyway we'll never know, it might as well have been attached in the first place. Anyway, check out Paintworx Loughborough for their 'filler flap delete mod'.

Perhaps the simplest example of this is breaking out the fishing line and polish, and proceeding to de-badge your van. For some it's a simple case of getting a smoother rear end, which always (and we do mean always) looks better. It costs nothing to whip off a badge, and because the vast majority of vans only have them so the manufacturers can tell the world what van they should be buying, why do you need them anyway?

Speaking of keeping that rear end smooth. One that's always up for debate here at VWt Towers is binning off the rear wiper. Again, removal is an easy job, in most cases a few nuts and bolts, and this can often give a far smoother look to a tailgate or barn door. But, that's not to say that everyone likes it, as some prefer to be able to see out of the back, a rather barmy notion we're sure. Though you can always use Rain-X to insure the back stays pretty clear from rain.

Contacts:
Kill All Wipers - **www.killallwipers.com**
Paintworx - **www.instagram.com/paintworxloughborough**

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UNITED KINGDOM

Rig

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MATT BLACK

BATTLE GREEN

ULTRA MATT GREY

ULTRA MATT BRONZE

HOT RIMS FOR 2023

Show season has landed, so get yourself ahead of the game with our hot wheel picks for the year...

NAVIS LENTA

Lenta is Latin for 'Tough' and these beauties are not just tough by name, but also tough by nature as they boast a big boy load rating of 1050kg a corner. That's more than enough not just for T32 Transporters, but also their much bigger brothers the Crafter and Man TGE. This wheel features a solid, flat face that has been stepped forward to give a deep concave towards the centre and a dishy rim. A wheel that suits that industrial commercial vehicle style, while also being sharp enough to suit a finely finished Highline.
Price **£1100** (per set)
www.naviswheels.com

WHEEL SPECS:
Diameter: **20 Inch**
Width: **9J**
Offset: **ET42**
Bolt pattern: **5×120**
Colours: **Gloss Anthracite, Gloss Black, Satin Death Bronze, Gloss Silver**
Load rating: **1050kg** (per wheel)

ROTIFORM SGN

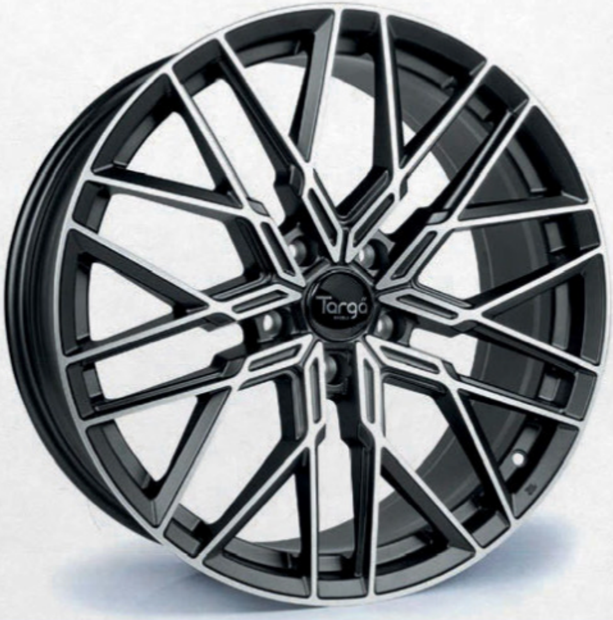
Those boys in California don't mess about when it comes to rims, and here's one of their latest drops, the new monoblock Rotiform SGN. A wheel that boasts that DTM heritage style Y-spoke with a stepped inner lip. It's redesigned and more refined while retaining the signature Rotiform look. Due to the thinner more intricate spoke layout this one isn't massive in the load rating, so not one for packed campers and heavy-laden panel vans.
Priced from **£1300** (per set)
www.rotiform.com

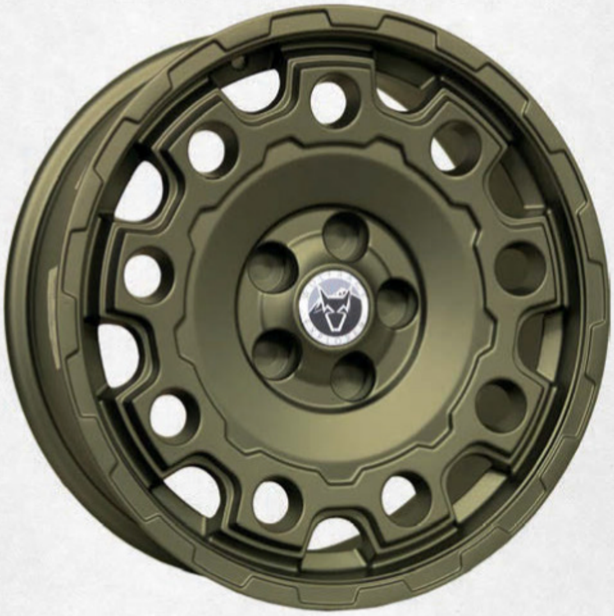
WHEEL SPECS:
Diameter: **19**
Width: **8.5J & 10J**
Offset: **ET35**
Bolt pattern: **5×120**
Colours: **Silver, Matt Black**
Load rating: **726kg** (per wheel)

TARGA TG8

Looking for an aggressive style wheel with tones of newer VAG models, how about the flow formed Targa TG8? This sporty black machined face multispoke rim boasts a twist on the classic Y-shape spoke design and features a stepped rim for a dishier look. Available in a variety of sizes, widths and offsets. Loaded rated to 875kg for both the 18" and 19" and up to 950kg for the range topping 20-incher.
Price **£800** (per set)
www.targawheels.com

WHEEL SPECS:
Diameter: **18 – 20"**
Width: **8-9J**
Offset: **ET40-42**
Bolt pattern: **5×120**
Colour: **Matt Black with Silver machined face**
Load rating: **875kg - 950kg**





WOLFRACE
EXPLORER WOLVERINE

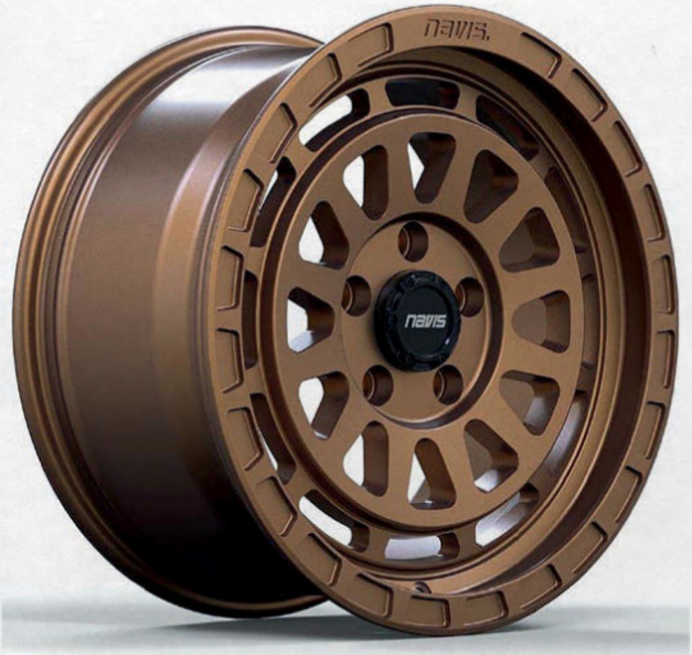
This wheel is so new that at the time of writing it's not even on sale yet, let alone on the streets! So, if you want to be one of the first to roll on Wolfrace's all-new Wolverine keeps your eyes peeled on their website for the first drop. The Swamper style wheel features a chunky grooved outer lip with a nine holed overland styled face. Perfect with a nice set of chunky tyres for an off-grid adventure or just a trip to the beach.
Price **£780** (per set)
www.wolfrace.co.uk

WHEEL SPECS:
Diameter: **17"**
Width: **8J**
Offset: **ET35**
Bolt pattern: **5×120**
Colours: **Gloss Black, Gloss Black Polished, Matt Black, Matt Black Polished, Matt Titanium**
Load rating: **875kg** (per wheel)

WOLFRACE
EXPLORER CANYON

When it comes to Swamper style wheels Wolfrace are smashing it out of the park, and they've done it again, with the hard as nails matt black Explorer Canyon wheel. Features include ten super-tough spokes, a rugged inner webbed circle coupled with chrome outer rivets and a coverplate. They can also be custom drilled for most PCDs.
Price **£780** (per set)
www.wolfrace.co.uk

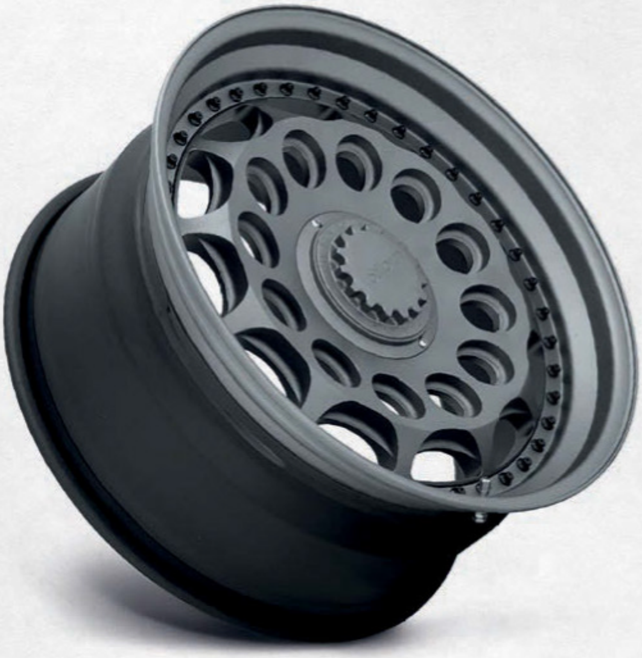
WHEEL SPECS:
Diameter: **17"**
Width: **8.5**
Offset: **ET20**
Bolt pattern: **5×120**
Colour: **Matt black**
Load rating: **950kg** (per wheel)



NAVIS GELIDA-AT

There's no two ways about it, the Gelida-AT is a stunner, how can anything look so tough, yet so beautiful at the same time? A bit like Jet from Gladiators, remember her? Nope, ask your dad. Anyway, this is a rugged all-terrain rim that can go anywhere and do anything, or be the ultimate winter wheel for your lowered van regardless of weather conditions. The name, was inspired by the wheel's resemblance to a snowflake, with Gelida translating from the Latin word frozen. Though that's where the snowflake similarities end, as these things are as tough as f**k both in looks and build quality.
Price **£1000** (per set)
www.naviswheels.com

WHEEL SPECS:
Diameter: **17"**
Width: **8.5J**
Offset: **ET34**
Bolt pattern: **5×120**
Colours: **Matt Black, Matt Anthracite, Satin Death Bronze**
Load rating: **1050kg** (per wheel)



ROTIFORM FORGED HVN

The HVN is for the true custom wheel aficionado who wants to take it up a level. But someone who wants a rim that looks tougher, madder and badder than Eddie 'The Beast' Hall after someone's stolen his parking space. Grrr!!! Hand built in the USA from the finest materials, custom built to your spec, your way, and in your choice of colour and finish. You may have to hope that inheritance comes early to pay from them, but it'll be worth it. Anyway, it's what Grandpa would have wanted, right?
Price **£POA**
www.rotiform.com

WHEEL SPECS:
Diameter: **Custom**
Width: **Custom**
Offset: **Custom**
Bolt pattern: **Custom**
Colours: **Custom**

SUPERMETAL RIG WHEEL

This strong and durable wheel is made from high grade aluminium alloy composition and given extensive heat treatment, to ensure The Rig is as superior on the inside as it is on the outside. This wheel is all about utility, designed and refined in its contours and patterns to resonate its no-nonsense approach. It features fine detailing, exposed bolt heads and is Supermetal's first multi-colour painted wheel using their Smart Masking process which applies two separately painted colour variations on one wheel with precision seamless edges. A super robust wheel for those that like their adventures off the beaten track.
Price **£820** (per set)
www.supermetal.co.uk

WHEEL SPECS:
Diameter: **18"**
Width: **8J**
Offset: **ET40**
Bolt pattern: **5×120 Fitment Only**
Colours: **Matt Green, Battle Green, Ultra Matt Bronze or Ultra Matt Grey**
Load rating: **1050kg** (per wheel)

BFGoodrich
All-Terrain T/A

FUEL COVERT

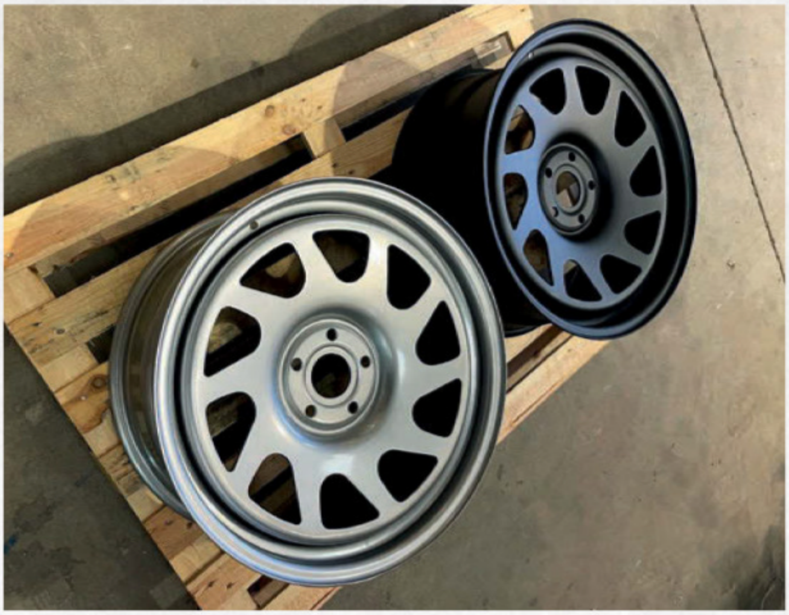
Fuel Off-Road make a plethora of stunning wheels and these all-terrain bias wheels have been specifically developed and manufactured for the T5 to T6.1. Like most of their range, these boast bold rugged edged looks with state-of-the-art design and look like they could survive the apocalypse. The Covert features 10 intricate concaved webbed spokes and an overland style riveted outer lip. Although designed as an out and out Swamper wheel, we've seen these also fitted on dropped vans for a really unique look... just see below.
Priced from **£1250** (per set)

WHEEL SPECS:
Diameter: **17/18"**
Width: **8.5J**
Offset: **ET34**
Bolt pattern: **5×120**
Colours: **Matt Black, Matt Bronze**
Load rating: **960kg** (per wheel)

EXCLUSIVE: NAVIS CHOPPER

When the guys at Navis asked us if we wanted to see a cheeky photo of their Chopper, we didn't know quite what to say. Curiosity got the better of us and we said yes, luckily what slipped into our DMs was this shot of two prototype wheels for the upcoming Navis Chopper. Details are scare at present, but Navis tell us they're a 20" offering as they are in the process of getting them TUV approved for the German market, and they should be on sale late May 2023. We'll have full details coming in a following issue.
Price: **£900** (per set – estimated)
www.naviswheels.com

WHEEL SPECS:
Diameter: **20"**
Width: **9J**
Offset: **ET45**
Bolt pattern: **5×120**
Colours: **Gloss Silver, Satin Black**
Load rating: **1050kg** (per wheel)



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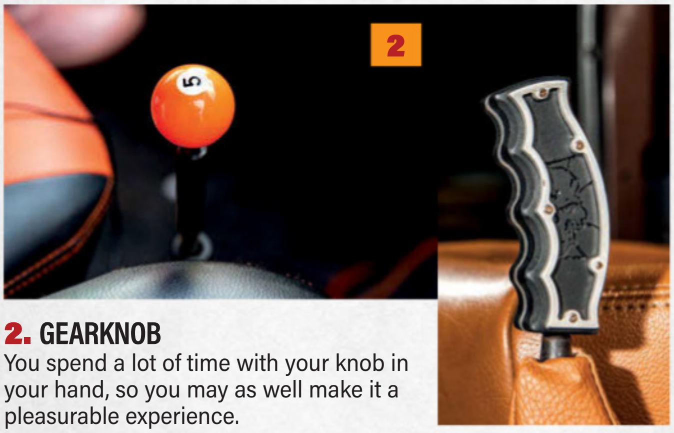
50 NIFTY MODS FOR UNDER £50-ISH

Short on cash and stuck for ideas? Here's some tidy touches you can do for show season without breaking the bank...

Let's be honest, one of the best ways to build a show winning van is with a big ol' pot of cash. Problem is in these tight times not everyone has huge sums of money to throw about. You may think all is lost, but you would be surprised how much you can do on a sensible budget, so we've picked out 50 nifty mods that you can do at home for around £50-ish or less. That's some credit crunch van modifying in the garage right there!

1. DE-BADGE

One of the simplest tricks and it costs nothing, take a few of those badges off and your van will be looking smoother than a shaved dolphin.



2. GEARKNOB

You spend a lot of time with your knob in your hand, so you may as well make it a pleasurable experience.

3. STARTER BUTTON

Jealous of those rich supercar types? Get a step closer with a push-button starter.

4. FLOOR MATS

A simple and easy way to make your interior look a million times better. And a lot less slippy if you have that silly commercial flooring.

5
Meguiar's
ULTIMATE QUIK WAX
ULTIMATE PAINT WAX
ULTIMATE ALL WHEEL CLEANER

5. CLEANING KIT

It sounds simple but a clean van looks better than a dirty one. Invest in some decent cleaning gear and get your van looking its best.

6. FABRIC TRIM DYE

Fed up with the drab grey interior and those unidentified stains? Yes, those ones! Dye it black for a meaner more stealthy look.

7. DOOR SPEAKER UPGRADE

Decent door speakers can transform the sound of a standard stereo, and direct replacements are a doddle to fit.

8. WIND DEFLECTORS

Add a touch of class, and let the kids breath easy whilst you leave them in the van to go shopping (joke, obviously!) or just cancel out the horrible wind noise with a set of these.

9. BADGES

Replace that old worn silver VW badge with a nice new shiny replacement – you can even change the colour too if you want!

10
2x
2x
BREMS SATTEL
LACK SET
NEON
DAS ORIGINAL
MADE IN GERMANY
FOLIATEC.com
BRAKE CALIPER
BREMSEN SPEZIAL REINIGER
BRAKE CLEANER

10. CALIPER PAINT

A quick and easy way to spruce up your brakes – just don't stick Brembo decals on them after you've painted them, you're not fooling anyone!

11. SILICONE HOSES

Full kits will be out of budget, but the odd hose upgrade will add some colour to the engine bay and improve reliability.

12. CUSTOM GRAPHICS

No tribal dragons or Fast and Furious-style murals please, but some tasteful graphics will help make your van unique and stand out from the crowd.

13. TINTED LIGHTS

A light coat of tint spray can refresh your taillights for a new look. Keep 'em legal though!

14. SPLITTERS

Front splitters add aggression and presence to the front of any van. They are also good for letting you know where the kerb is… crunch!

15

Cleans & restores black trim
CarPlan
Black Trim Wax

15. BLACK PLASTIC RESTORER

Rocking the commercial look, or got some tired looking black plastics? Get them looking fresh as funk with some black plastic & trim restorer.

16. HYDRODIPPING

Water transfer printing, or hydrodipping, can give some really cool effects and works on pretty much anything that can be painted.

17

YY60 UYD
YY60 UYD

17. NUMBER PLATES

We're not talking tacky fonts or illegal styles here, but a fresh set of plates. You can't go wrong with pressed metal plates.

18

18. SCREEN WRAP

Great for blocking out the light when camping or as a frost protector in the colder months. Screen wraps simply hook over the doors and have two strong nylon fasteners to attach under your door mirrors.

19. WHEEL BOLTS

Nice new wheels, and rusty old wheel bolts? Sort it out!

JUST KILL IT

20

20. REAR WIPER DELETE

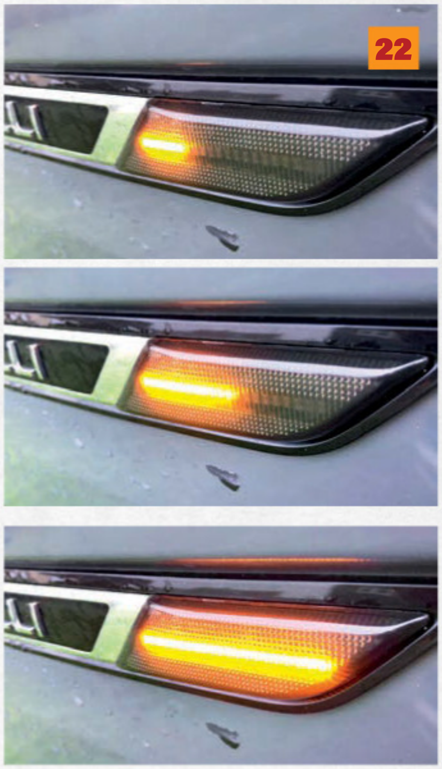
Smooth your rear end by binning off the rear wiper and using a wiper delete kit. Oh, and lots of Rain-X as well!

21

21. HEADLIGHT BULB UPGRADE

Switch to some decent bulbs (some HID conversion kits are even within budget) for improved night driving.

22



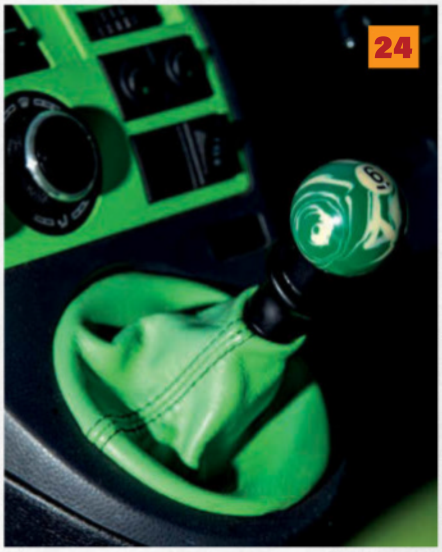
22. SEQUENTIAL LED SIDE REPEATERS

Easy to fit, complete installation only takes a couple of minutes, and you usually only need a plastic trim tool to remove the old ones. Smoked or clear sir?

23. VWt SUBSCRIPTION

Want inspiration on what mods to make, what retailers to use, and what shows to go to. You best get an annual subscription to the UK's best Transporter magazine then.

24



24. GEARSHIFT GAITER

Replace that tired gaiter with something fresh. Leather, cloth, GTI Plaid, you can even get ones with custom embroidery if you wish.

25. LOCKING WHEEL BOLTS

If you've got nice wheels, you'll want to keep them. Invest in some decent locking wheel bolts then.

26. INTERIOR LEDS

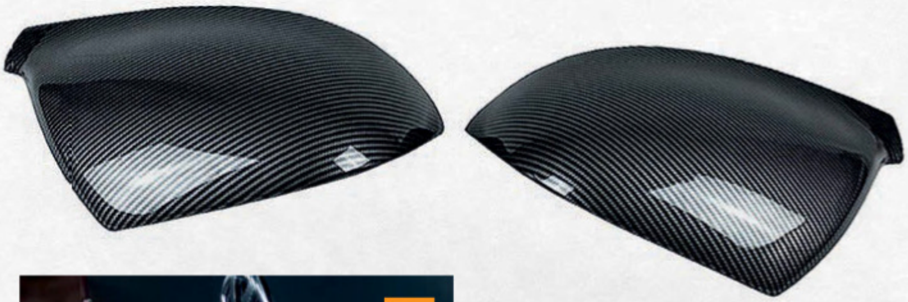
Don't stick them everywhere, but well-placed LEDs can give some cool mood lighting to the interior.

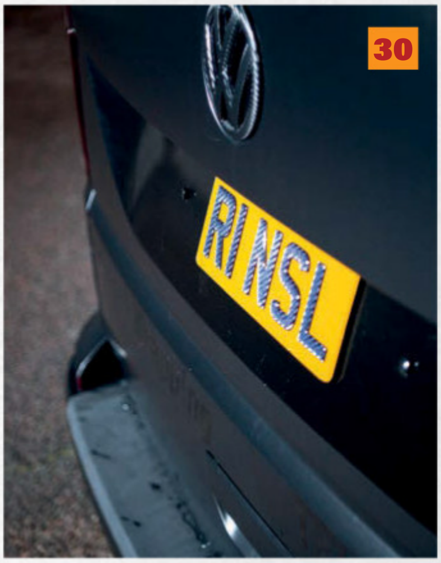
27. INTERIOR COLOUR CODING

Don't go over the top, but a dab of colour coding with little details can add up to make a big difference. An accent colour can be used to make certain features stand out and draw attention from the eye.

28. FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Nobody wants to think about it, but a handheld fire extinguisher can save your pride and joy should the worst happen. Get one in the van!




30

30. CARBON FIBRE

You won't get a bonnet for £50, but you will get smaller pieces such as badges or even mirror covers in sexy carbon fibre.

29

29. SUNSTRIP

Improve the looks of your van and keep the sun out your eyes. It won't help you drive like a touring car driver though.

31. MAGNETIC SUMP PLUG

Simple as it sounds, a magnet in the sump can save metal particles from floating around and ruining the bottom end of your engine.

32. WRINKLE PAINT

Tidy up some crusty parts with a nice wrinkle finish, they can be coloured too.

33. GEOMETRY SETUP

Technically not a modification, but a geometry setup will transform how your van feels on the road. It'll save you money on tyres as well, money you can spend on mods!

34

34. SIDE BARS

As well as front splitters, side bars can drastically improve the visual appearance of your van and offer some protection. Not to be used for fake lows though.

35. HEADLAMP RESTORATION

Get your headlamps looking like new again and really refresh the face of your van. You'll probably be able to see better in the dark as well... which is always good!

36. BONNET STRUTS

Fed up with having a bonnet stay? Convert to gas struts, there are kits available for all models.

37

37. VALVE CAPS

Little touches help the overall feel, just watch out for feral kids on mountain bikes nicking them... the little tow-rags.

38. UPRATED BRAKE PADS

This is probably the most cost-effective way to improve your vans performance for less than £50. A decent set of pads will increase braking forces giving you more confidence and later braking when you stamp on the middle pedal. Or the left pedal if you're posh and have DSG, ooh get you!

39. FULL WIDTH THRESHOLD STRIPS

Most vans come with shorter versions, this will finish off the flooring neatly when doing your camper or kombi conversion.

40. FRESH DOOR STEP

Nothing gets trodden on more than your door steps, get rid of those scuffed up units for some fresh ones.

41. 'SOUNDS LIKE A GOLF' DOOR SEAL

Get rid of the clattering commercial sounding door shut with a better door seal. Shut with a clunk instead of a rattle. Ahh... sounds like a Golf.

42. DASH GAP TRIM

Trim that's designed to sit perfectly in the gap between the dash and windscreen. Take that loose pens, parking permits, credit cards and McDonald's straws.

43. WHEEL SPACERS

Wheel spacers are great for getting your wheels to sit better in the arches, just a few mm can make all the difference. Always try to fit hubcentric items where possible.

44. AIR FRESHENER

Nobody wants to ride in a van that stinks, so spend a couple of quid and get the interior smelling fresh.

45. CURTAINS

Keep the outside from looking in, with a set of sliding rail curtains. Easy to fit and privacy at last whilst you catch forty winks or sit on the Porta Potty, no one needs to see that.

46. LED FOG LIGHT UPGRADE

Replace the standard candles with some bright white LED fog lights with Canbus resistor looms. 40-nicker will get you a decent set that don't flicker like the cheaper versions.

47. GRILLE STRIPS

Make your front grille stand out without having to remove your front bumper and change your entire grille. Simply remove the chrome ones and click these into place.

48. SPOILER

Okay, this may be a stretch for 50-quid, but we have seen both barn door and tailgate spoilers for close to this. There'll probably be in primer though, so crack out the rattle cans.

49. ENGINE COVER

An engine cover hides all the gubbins and keeps things looking clean. An easy mod that takes minutes.

50. BONNET DEFLECTOR

Protect your bonnet from stone chips with a bonnet deflector. Simple to fit and no drilling required, just use the underside fixing clips.

MODS TO AVOID

Cheap mods are truly satisfying and a great way of getting stuck in at home. They do come with a stark health warning though: it's easy to get them wrong, overdo things or just make a total mess and cheapen the look you were after. Here are some definite modifications to avoid in our book.

HOME TINTING

Professional tints look cool, but nasty bin liners creased up all over your windows is not a good look, leave it to the pros.

FAKE BADGES

If your van isn't a 4Motion, Highline, Sportsline or a 5-litre V8 etc why pretend it is? It doesn't look cool, you just look like a fool.

FANCY ITALIC NUMBER PLATES

Cheesy fonts land you in trouble with the police, good! Horrible things.

BAD GRAPHICS/POOR AIR BRUSHING

Tribal patterns, dragons, badly drawn superheroes and other similar tasteless junk. Peel it off or rub it off and try again.

RUNNING LIGHTS

The rubberised 'universal' stuff is bad, never fits right and looks like someone equipped a caterpillar with glow sticks. Leave well alone.

A THEME TOO FAR

A theme can be cool, but don't go too crazy. Do you really need Captain America's shield for a hub cap or Thor's hammer smashing through the bonnet? No, you don't! *(Speak for yourself! - Initial G)*

VIPER STRIPES

Most of the time they look whack and they're usually wonky. Leave these to the American muscle car fan boys, yee haw!

TOO MUCH TINT

Going overboard with the light tint spray and making your van dangerous as people can't see if you're braking or indicating – not ideal.

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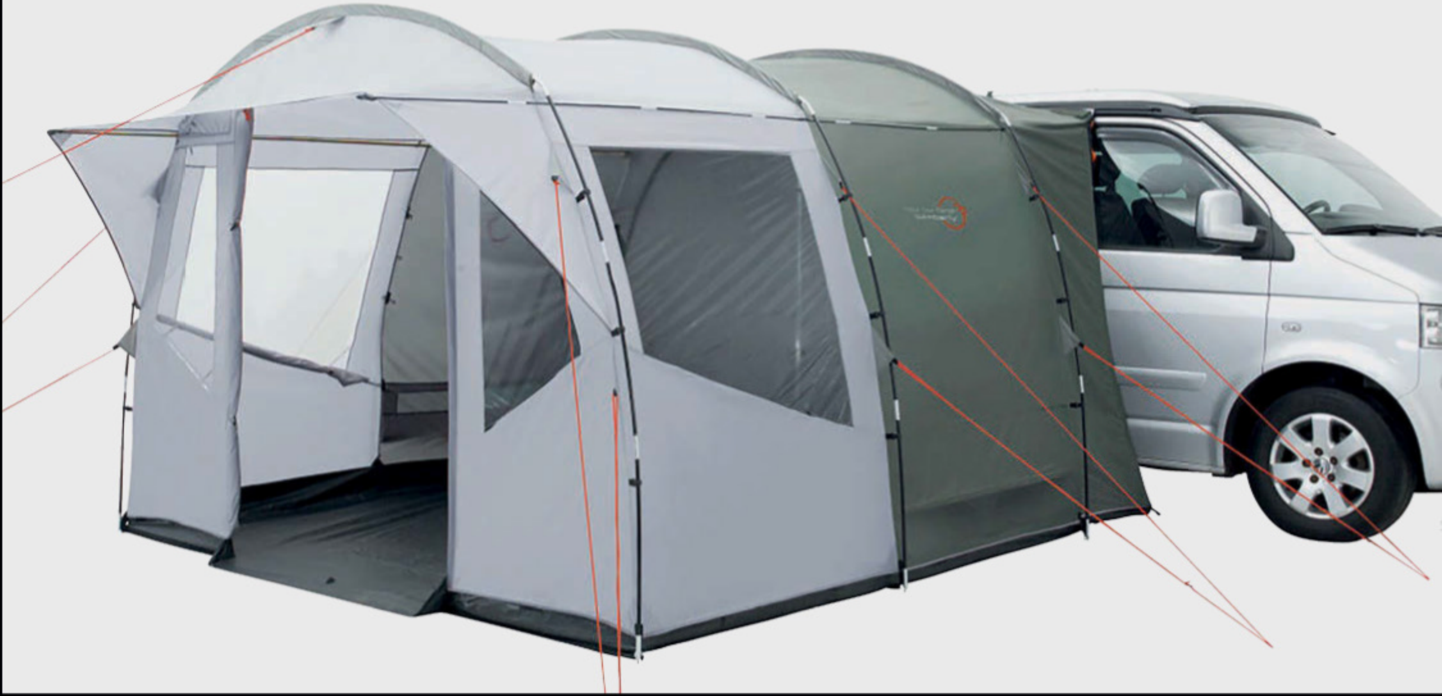
9 AWESOME DRIVE-AWAY AWNINGS

Wake up rested and relaxed with some extra space on your next camping trip. Stop the morning yawning and get a load of these awesome drive-away awnings....

EASY CAMP WIMBERLY

A flexible tunnel design, the large Wimberly drive-away awning has pre-angled fibreglass poles plus exterior fiberglass poles for stability, canopy support and fabric tension. With full standing headroom, curtained windows, a rear double and front door and large air vents plus a full-size toggle-up groundsheet. There's also a two-person optional inner tent that fits either side, to act as a bedroom or for storage. A great choice if your budgets is tight.

Price **£316**
www.easycamp.com
Weight: **11.7kg**
Pack size: **72 x 25 x 31cm**
Structure: **Fibreglass poles**
Pitch time: **12 mins**



OUTWELL LAKECREST

With flexible campervan connection options, the free-standing Lakecrest vehicle awning uses aluminium poles for reliable lightweight support. It's ideal for couples or small families. Offering versatile, spacious shelter, you'll enjoy the ample light, headroom and ventilation. Quickly and easily pitched using partial pole sleeves and clips for its colour-coded frame, there's plenty of room to unpack the van, spread out and relax. Twin side doors in the large Link Access Zone ensure easy access to both van and tent. For versatility at outdoor events, barbecues or to chill at sunset, you can transform it into a generously-sized canopy when you roll away the front panel fully. Offers great accommodation with a small footprint – ideal for tight pitches at events.

Price **£680**

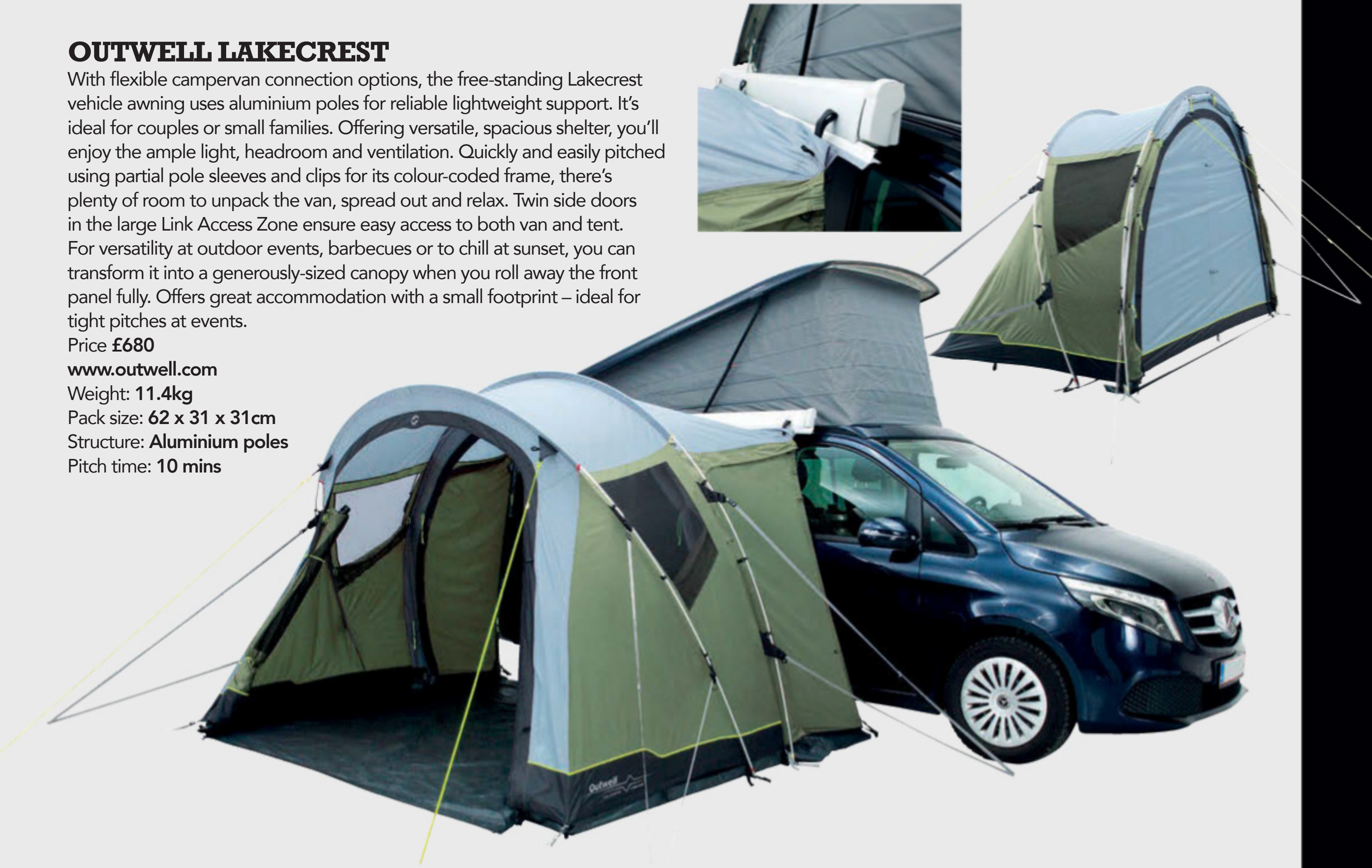
www.outwell.com

Weight: **11.4kg**

Pack size: **62 x 31 x 31cm**

Structure: **Aluminium poles**

Pitch time: **10 mins**



ROBENS COBRA STONE 5

The Cobra Stone 5 dome offers full standing height, plus two-porch versatility. Vent placement ensures enhanced air flow when doors are shut. Roll away the porch walls in fine weather for the free-standing mode that reveals the inner tent. This has a front rainproof door with two-way zip and three-layer window that comprises a mesh panel with PVC behind and a curtain for privacy. The simple rear door U-door also has a two-way zip. Dark walls cut down light for enhanced sleep comfort. A top bit of kit.

Price **£810**

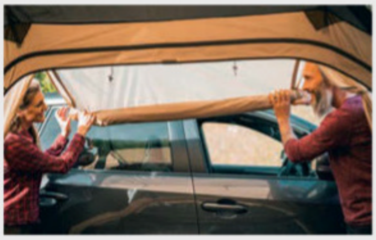
www.robens.de

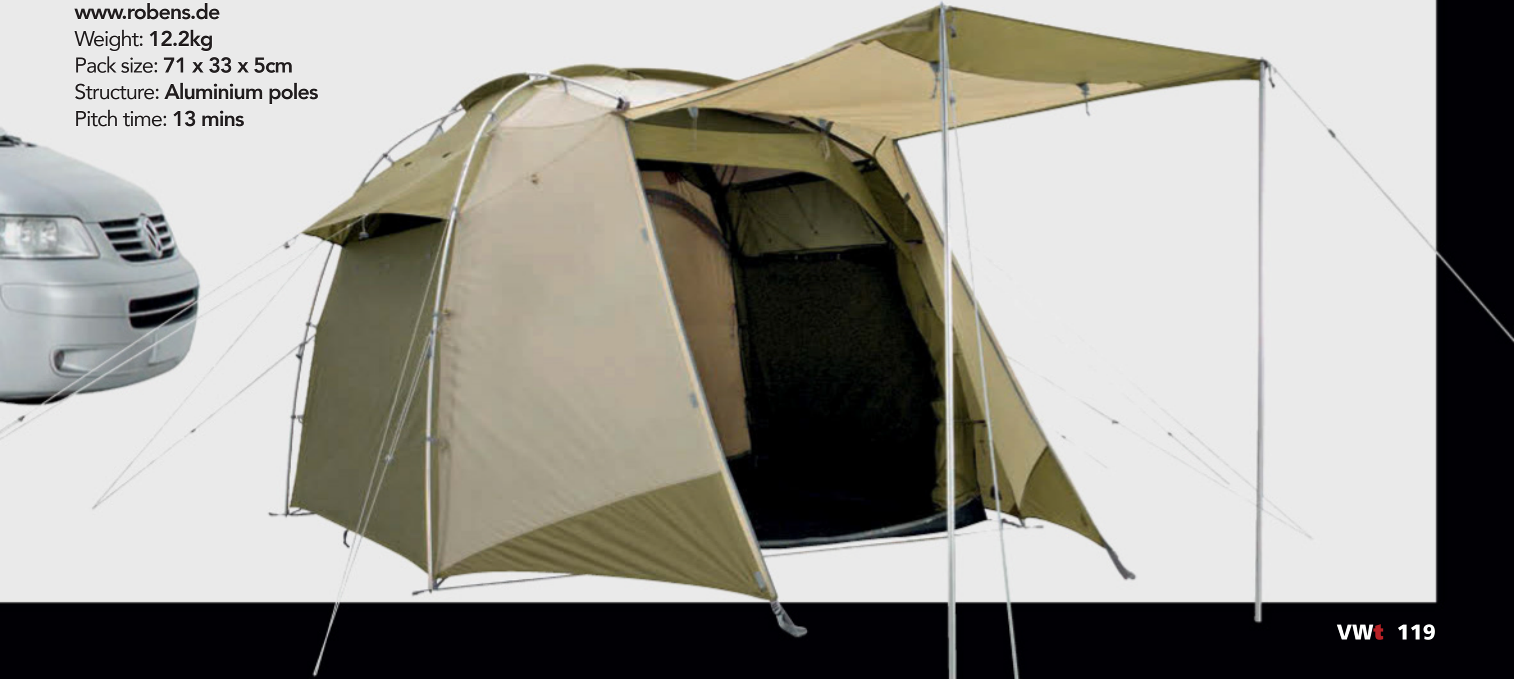
Weight: **12.2kg**

Pack size: **71 x 33 x 5cm**

Structure: **Aluminium poles**

Pitch time: **13 mins**

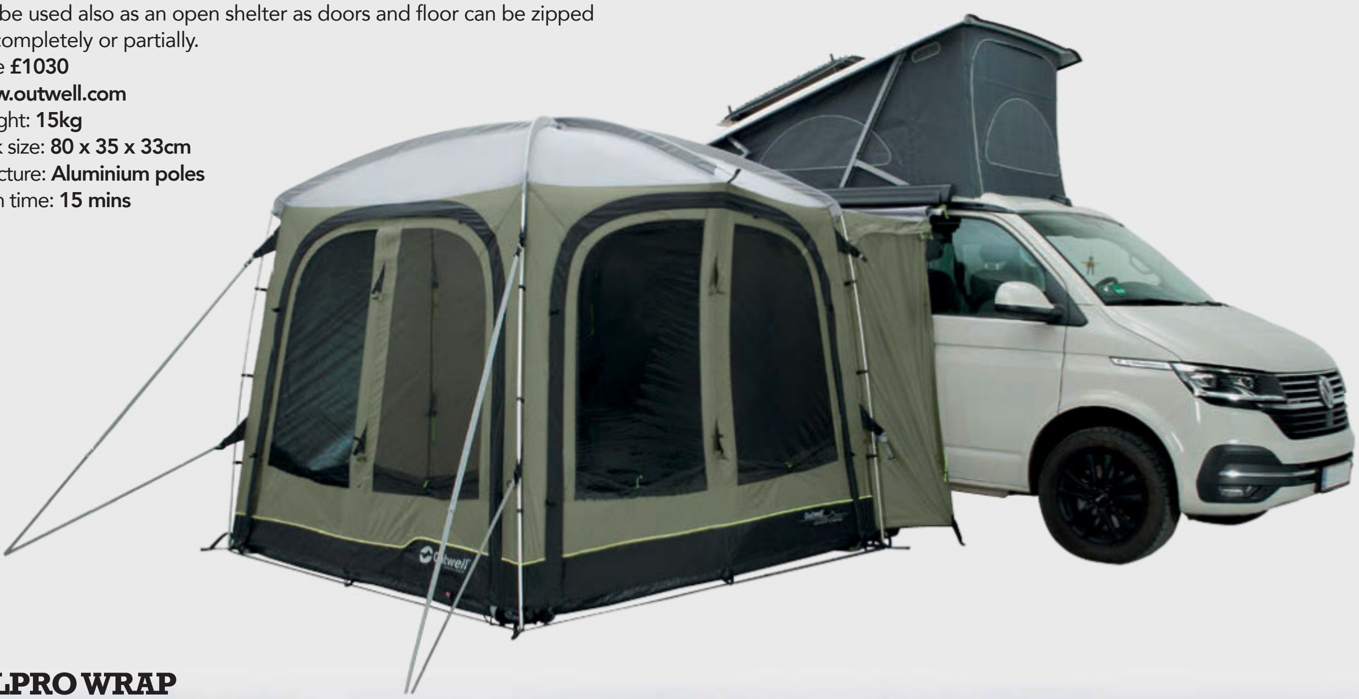




OUTWELL SHALECREST

Families, friends and couples seeking extra space to enjoy campervan life to the full will love the flexibility offered by the Shalecrest freestanding vehicle awning. Fast and easy to connect, you'll find the extra light-filled living space with its great headroom is perfect for spreading out to relax and dine after a day on the road. With versatile ventilation options, it can be used as an airy bedroom to escape the confines of your van. Ideal for use on hard ground, it can be used also as an open shelter as doors and floor can be zipped off completely or partially.

Price **£1030**
www.outwell.com
Weight: **15kg**
Pack size: **80 x 35 x 33cm**
Structure: **Aluminium poles**
Pitch time: **15 mins**

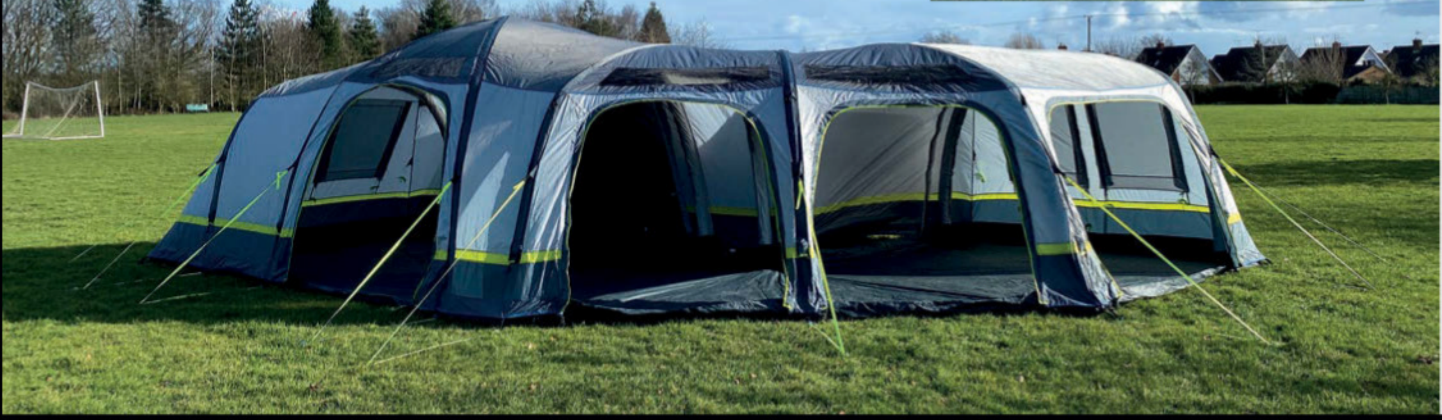


OLPRO WRAP

Go big with the Wrap, a totally unique inflatable drive away awning, wrapping round the campervan to make the most of the space on your camping pitch. Included with the awning is two inner sleeping compartments, the four-berth inner is fitted at the front of the awning and can be divided into 2x two berth sleeping compartments at the rear of the awning. An additional two berth inner sleeping compartment is present, giving the Wrap the capacity to sleep six people and still have plenty of room for manoeuvre.

The Wrap has four front door panels that can be removed to make the awning completely open in good weather. All door panels are vented and have large viewing windows. The unique design gives you a massive living area between the two sleeping compartments that is filled with light through the tinted sky lights. To the rear of the awning, access is provided to the back doors of the campervan via a roll up door. Access to the side is via the large roll up tunnel making it easy to drive away. So much space you won't want to go home!

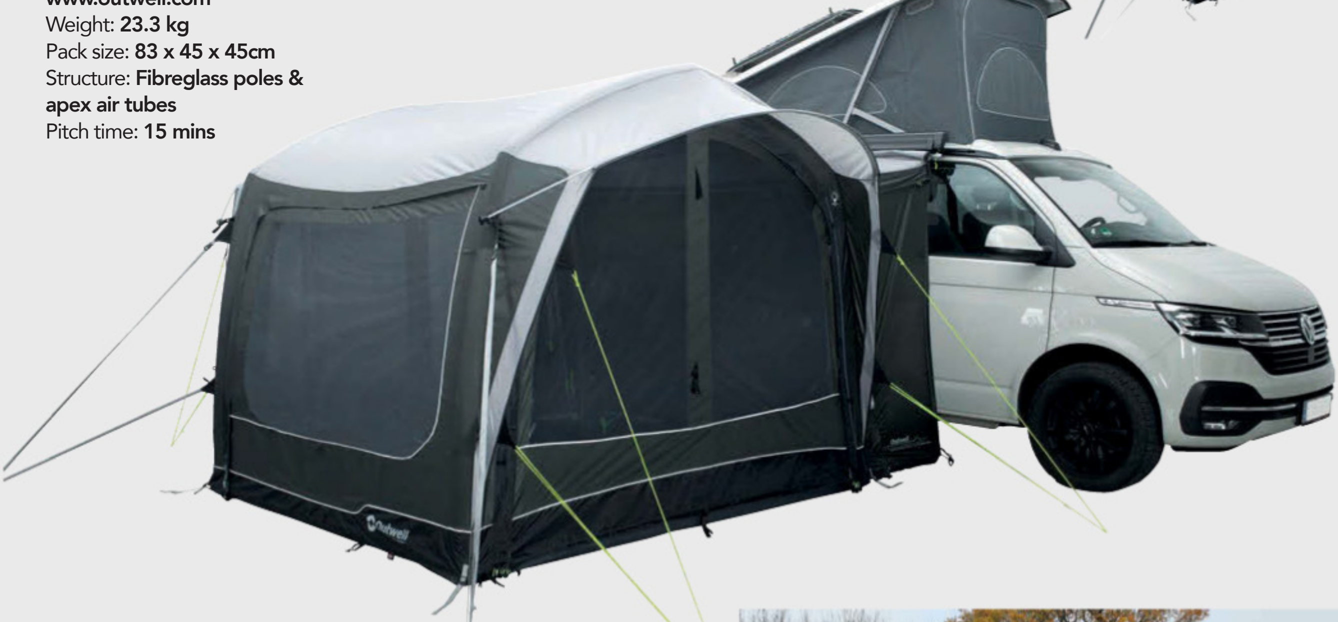
Price **£1800**
www.olproshop.com
Weight: **40kg**
Pack size: **60 x 35 x 35cm**
Structure: **Reinforced TPU inflatable beams**
Pitch time: **25 mins**



OUTWELL CROSSVILLE 250SA

Offering welcome extra recreational and sleeping space, you'll love the sleek design, air tube stability and practical versatility of the Outwell Crossville 250SA, a compact, parallel-mounted, drive-away vehicle awning. Rainsafe canopies over both front and rear doors offer easy access plus plenty of protected ventilation even in bad weather. You can unzip all doors to truly connect with nature as an open or mesh-screened shelter and the sewn-in groundsheet ensures crawling bugs stay outside.

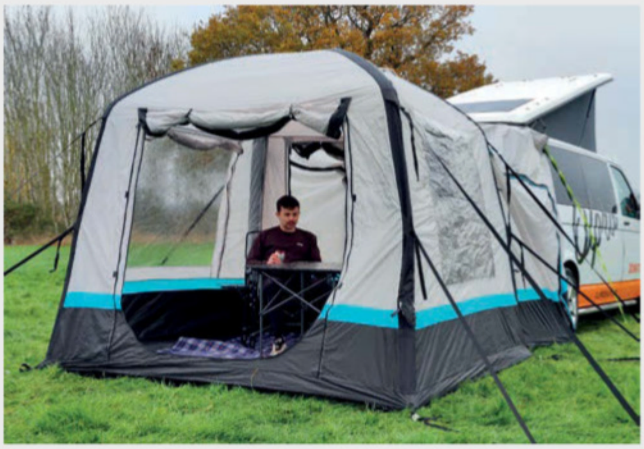
Price **£1416**
www.outwell.com
Weight: **23.3 kg**
Pack size: **83 x 45 x 45cm**
Structure: **Fibreglass poles & apex air tubes**
Pitch time: **15 mins**



OLPRO SNUG BREEZE

The Snug inflatable tailgate awning is a driveaway awning perfect for couples or solo campervaners who want an extra sheltered space ideal for cooking, or just for sitting/storage in unfair weather. Designed with tailgate campervans in mind, the awning quickly attaches to your vehicle using your throw over straps or using an awning rail. Snug is made from a 150D Ripstop Oxford Polyester with taped seams. The tunnel has two doors on either side for easy access to the rear of your vehicle. This awning is also suitable to standard barn door vans, or rear access vehicles. The inflatable beams make setting up the Breeze a err... breeze!

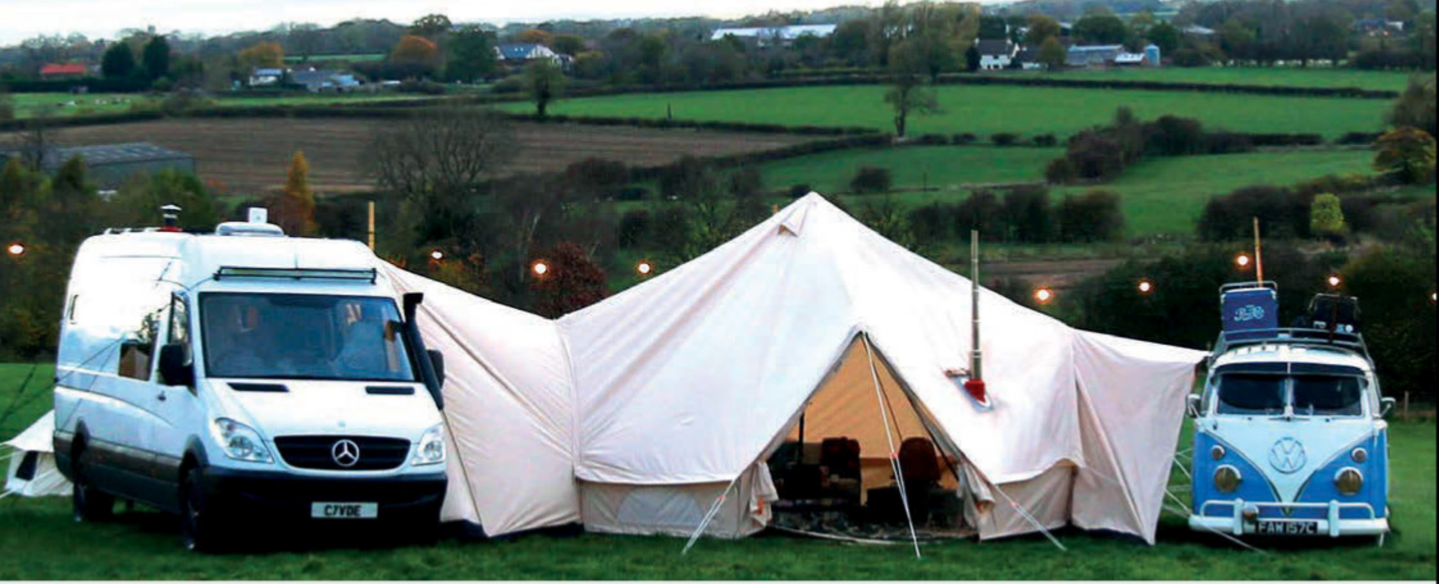
Price **£499**
www.olproshop.com
Weight: **15kg**
Pack size: **60 x 30 x 30cm**
Structure: **Reinforced TPU inflatable beams & optional canopy poles**
Pitch time: **10 mins**



GLAWNING HUB

Check out the Glawning HUB 3, so called because it has three entrances, you can even attach two vehicles to each end of the main tent and use the HUB 3 as a central living space. You can mix and match canopy sizes, use the extra door for a pod or porch, or just enjoy an extra entrance. The possibilities are endless. It's organic, waterproof, mildew resistant, and it has aluminium poles and superlite stakes. The zip in groundsheet is black and made from 420D Oxford fabric a waterproof, PU coating. The stove hole comes pre-cut between the two doors and consists of a fire-retardant canvas section enabling the fitting of a stove flue into your tent. In the absence of a stove the flap is held down with a Velcro seal.

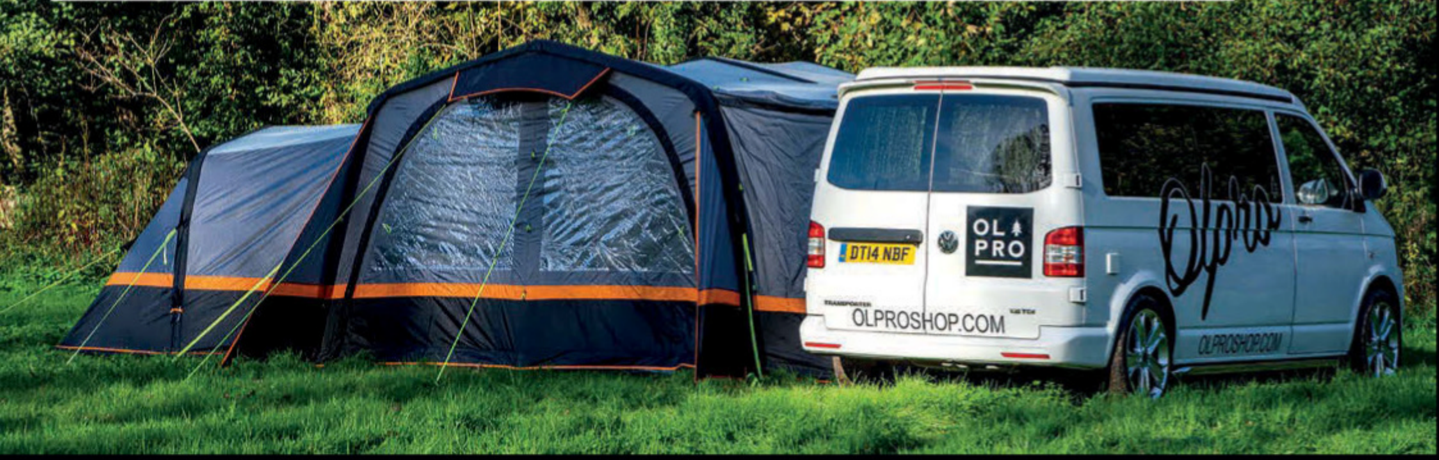
Price **£899**
www.glawning.com
Weight: **32kg**
Pack size: **115 x 32 x 32cm**
Structure: **Aluminium poles**
Pitch time: **10 mins**



OLPRO CALI BREEZE

A large awning that includes a four-berth inner tent and also comes with a detachable two-berth bedroom pod for extra sleeping or storage space. The inflatable beams make setting up a lot easier than a poled awning. The awning includes two-bedroom inner tents, a four-berth with a removable divider and a two-berth inner tent for the detachable side pod all with zip-able doors and fly mesh. There's no groundsheet for the detachable side pod, but the bedroom inner tent does have a sewn in groundsheet. There's even a panel with a window included for when the side pod is not in use. Love it!

Price **£1400**
www.olproshop.com
Weight: **40kg**
Pack size: **82 x 43 x 43cm**
Structure: **Reinforced TPU inflatable beams**
Pitch time: **20 mins**



PRICED EXAMPLE £2,740

PREMIUM ★ 5.1M ★ BLACK

PRICED EXAMPLE £895

COMPACT • UP TO 2.4M

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PAYMENT ON INSTALLATION

PRICED EXAMPLE £1,990

PREMIUM ★ 3.4M ★ ANTHRACITE

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PRICED EXAMPLE £1,390

PREMIUM ★ UP TO 2.4M ★ WALNUT

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2023 EVENTS PLANNER

Pack up your van and hit the road. Here's our pick of the best upcoming events

SCARB
ACE HAND

APRIL

7th - 9th
CARRY ON CAMP OUT 5
South of England Showground, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 6TH
www.carryoncampout.co.uk

13th - 16th
VEE DUB FAMILY BIRTHDAY WEEKENDER
Coast Rd, Burnham-on-Sea, TA8 2RB
www.veedubfamily.org

21st - 23rd April
ALIVE & KICKIN
Haughley Park, Suffolk, IP14 3JU
www.aliveandvdubbin.co.uk

23rd
GTI FESTIVAL
Santa Pod Raceway, Wellingborough, Northants, NN29 7XA
www.gtifestival.com

28th - 1st (May)
VW CAMP OUT
Budle Bay, Nothumberland
www.vwcampout.uk

28th - 1st (May)
THE ONLY MEET IS ESSEX
The Orsett Showground, Essex RM16 3JU
www.vw-tomie.co.uk

MAY

4th - 7th
DERBYSHIRE DUBS VW FESTIVAL
Wardlow, Derbyshire, SK17 8RW
www.derbyshiredubs.co.uk

5th - 7th
VANWEST
Taunton Racecourse, Taunton, Somerset, TA3 7BL
www.vanwest.co.uk

5th - 7th
VANLIFE FEST
Scampston Hall, Malton, North Yorkshire, YO17 8NG
www.vanlifefest.co.uk

7th
EARLY EDITION
Sywell Aerodrome, Northampton, NN6 0BN
www.edition38.com

12th - 14th
GLAMPFEST
Market Flat Lane, Knaresborough, Yorkshire, HG5 9JA
www.glampfest.com

19th - 21st
VW BREAKOUT
Santa Pod Raceway, Wellingborough, Northants, NN29 7XA
www.santapod.co.uk

21st
CRUISE TO THE PROM
Beach Road, Beach Lawns, Weston super Mare
www.veedubfamily.org

25th - 29th
DUBS IN THE MIDDLE 8
Ashdown Farm, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 7EN
www.dubsinthemiddle.co.uk

26th - 28th
VOLKSFLING
Biggar Showfield, Biggar, South Lanarkshire, ML12 6PN
www.volksfling.co.uk

30th - 2nd (JULY)
CARRY ON CAMP OUT 6
South of England Showground, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 6TH
www.carryoncampout.co.uk

JUNE

2nd - 4th
VAN JAM 14
Lincolnshire Showground, Grange-de-Lings, Lincoln, LN2 2NA.
www.vanjamboree.co.uk

4th
CAMPERS & COFFEE
Hellingly, Hailsham BN27 4DS
www.campersandcoffee.co.uk

8th - 11th
ALIVE & V-DUBBIN
Haughley Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 3JY
www.aliveandvdubbin.co.uk

9th - 11th
BRISTOL VOLKFEST
Birches Farm, Bristol, BS48 3RN
www.bristolvolksfest.co.uk

16th - 18th
MIGHTY DUB FEST
Alnwick Castle, Northumberland, NE66 1NB
www.mightydubfest.com

17th - 18th
PLAYERS CLASSIC
Goodwood Motor Circuit, Chichester, PO18 0PX
www.players-show.com

JULY

7th - 9th
CAMPER JAM 22
Weston Park, Shropshire, TF11 8LE
www.camperjam.com

7th - 9th
DORSET VOLKSFEST
The Showground, Worgret Rd, Wareham BH20 6AB
www.dorsetvolksfest.co.uk

14th - 16th JULY
VWT FESTIVAL
Kent County Showground, Maidstone, ME14 3JF
events.fastcar.co.uk/vwt-festival/

21st - 23rd
BUG JAM 36
Santa Pod Raceway, Wellingborough, Northants, NN29 7XA
www.bugjam.co.uk

27th - 30th
DUBBED OUT VW FESTIVAL
Ashley Hall, Ashley, Altrincham, WA14 3QA
www.dubbedoutfestival.co.uk

27th - 30th
DUBTOBERFEST
Cheltenham Racecourse, Evesham Rd, Cheltenham, GL50 4SH
www.dubtoberfest.co.uk

30th
DUBS AT THE BEACH
Esplanade Road, Torbay, TQ4 6BL
www.facebook.com/dubsatthebeach

30th
ENDLESS SUMMER VW SHOW
The War Memorial Park, Basingstoke, RG21 4AL
www.facebook.com/endlesssummervwshow

AUGUST

4th - 6th
DUBS SOUTH CAMPOUT
Limekiln Lane, Dean, Southampton, SO32 1FY
www.dubssouthcampout.co.uk

6th
BEACH DUBBIN'
Southsea Common, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire
www.beachdubbin.co.uk

11th - 13th
VW FESTIVAL
Harewood House, Harewood, Leeds LS17 9LG
www.vwfestival.co.uk

11th - 13th
VWT CHILL
Beaulieu, New Forest, Hampshire, SO42 7ZN
www.beaulieu.co.uk

13th
SIMPLY VW
Beaulieu, New Forest, Hampshire, SO42 7ZN
www.beaulieu.co.uk

18th - 20th
VOLKSFEST WALES
Watton Show Fields, The Watton, Brecon, LD3 7PL
www.volksfest.wales

25th - 27th
CAMPER CALLING
Ragley Hall, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 5NJ
www.campercalling.com

31st - 3rd (September)
BULLI SUMMER FESTIVAL
Ausesee, Wesel, Germany
www.bullisummerfestival.de

SEPTEMBER

1st - 3rd
VW ACTION
Santa Pod Raceway, Wellingborough, Northants, NN29 7XA
www.vwaction.co.uk

8th - 10th
BUSFEST
Three Counties Showground, Malvern, WR13 6NW
www.busfest.org

10th
CAMPERS & COFFEE
Hellingly, Hailsham BN27 4DS
www.campersandcoffee.co.uk

15th - 17th
V-DUBS IN THE VALLEY 9
Bewdley, Shropshire DY12 1SU
www.vdubsinthevalley.co.uk

15th - 17th
CARRY ON CAMP OUT 7
South of England Showground, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 6TH
www.carryoncampout.co.uk

GET ADDED
Got a meet or event that should be in here? Drop us an email to ***glenn.rowswell@kelsey.co.uk***

*Please note dates and venues are subject to change. So please check website for latest details.

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CURRENT LISTINGS

VOLKSWAGEN BAY CAMPERVAN

1972, £24,500. Westfalia Californian import LHD. All original panels, no rust, no bubbling. Lovingly preserved last year to ensure another 50 years of adventures. Hundreds of photos available. Full braking system overhaul. Type 4 1700 W code engine with twin solex carbs. Undersealed. Original Westy furniture although seats have been reupholstered at some point. Please call 07818441910, East Midlands.

115173

VOLKSWAGEN CAMPERVAN

1981, Vw T25 1981 camper Air cooled Road tested to Dec 2022 new clutch mot and tax exempt and exempt from most road charges owned 10 years old mots and lots of old receipts history Just fitted original vw tow bar good original condition may exchange classic old vee twin motorbike 1940s with sidecar WHY Combo may take Combo part. Please call 07863 262603, Greater London.

118661

VOLKSWAGEN BAY CAMPERVAN

1978, 14900 miles, Hattie is in truly lovely condition.I have driven Hattie for a number of weddings last year and she attracted a lot of attention with very flattering comments. She is a beautiful van that will appreciate in value due to her fantastic condition and is priced sensibly at £26,500. Please call 07780974617, Wales.

116565

VOLKSWAGEN BAY CAMPERVAN

1976, 95500 miles, £31,995. 1976 Volkswagen Westfalia Berlin Deluxe T2 Campervan. An immaculate example with all the original features and interior in place. Including all the original interior down to the carpets.Zero rust and fantastic condition overall. All mod cons for camping and ready to go.Tiaga Green. Fantastic original Westfalia Deluxe interior Includes Gas hob and sink.Diesel/Paraffin night heater. 240v electric hookup with solar panels and leisure battery/12v Sockets. 2ltr Air-cooled engine with Twin 40 Weber carbs. Please call 01376793293, South East.

118651

VOLKSWAGEN BAY CAMPERVAN

1972, £19,500. £19,500 1972 Early Bay, Beautiful VW T2 finished in cream over orange. Tax and MOT exempt, MOT until 20th June 2023. Front hinged roof, Full size rock 'N' roll bed, lift out table, full internal led lighting, 240v hook up, USB point, 12v socket, 240 power points. Fitted amp meter, JVC fitted music centre with USB input. Full surround sound speakers, drive away awning, aluminium sidestep. 75,186 miles. Please call 07722 046175, East of England.

117663

VOLKSWAGEN BAY CAMPERVAN

1970, £27,500. genuine uk rhd. bought in 2003 and has been fully renovated/restored and been on the road since 2016. too much to list but work included:- engine. Please call 02380879791, South West.

115436

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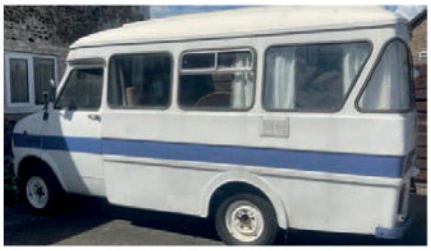
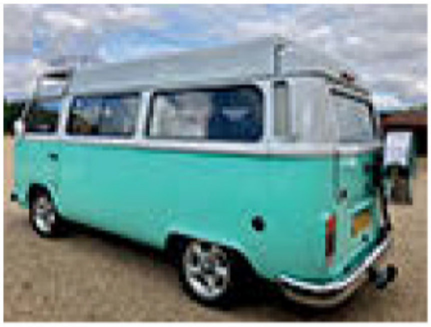
VOLKSWAGEN CAMPERVAN



Two Classic Martin Walter 'Dormobiles' (Debonaire + Bedouin)tax and MOT free, easy restoration for the coming Season. Neither expensive. Please call 07720380866, East of England.

118676

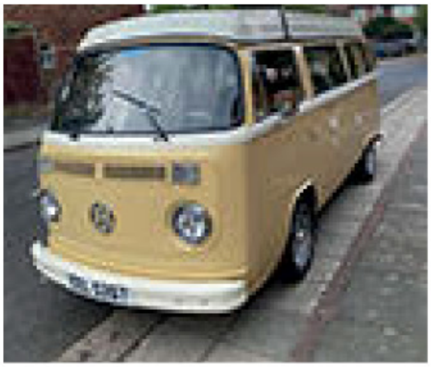
VOLKSWAGEN TYPE 2 CAMPER



2012, 13500 miles, £37,750. Betty, our immaculate 2012 VW T2 Kombi Danbury Rio SE, LHD, 13500mls with air conditioning and power assisted steering is sadly for sale. Fully loaded with full magnolia leather interior (protected by covers), alloy wheels, lowered suspension, side step, chrome jail bars and other fittings, tow bar with electrics and bike rack, aluminium storage box on a fixed tow bar platform, roof luggage rack, lockable cover and rear wheel carrier, parking sensors, sunroof, Taxed and tested. Many VW embellishments and paraphernalia. Call +44(0)1328316275. Please call +44 (0)1328 316275, East of England.

117776

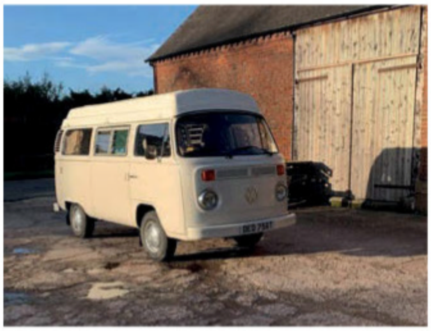
VOLKSWAGEN T2



1978, 123000 miles, £25,995. 1978 Type 2 Westfalia Camper Van Subaru 2.2 16 Valve Engine fitted by TSR conversions in Suffolk also Van fully restored 2010 Mot Tax and ULEZ Free LHD Van is in excellent Condition no rust and 100% reliable selling due to lack of use always garaged .If you need more information let me know first to see will buy. Please call 07956422658, Greater London.

117698

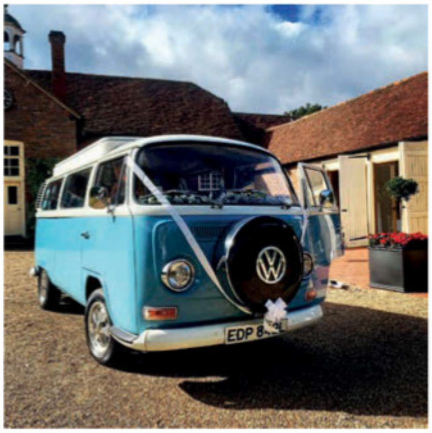
VOLKSWAGEN BAY CAMPERVAN



1979, 94001 miles, £36,000. Volkswagen Type 2 Devon Moonraker Caravan, 1584 cc.Beige / White. Furnishing/curtains, front seats newly refurbished. Fridge/ double gas Cooker, New tyres,MOT excempt. Sandblasted to bare metal. Please call 07710234750, West Midlands.

118771

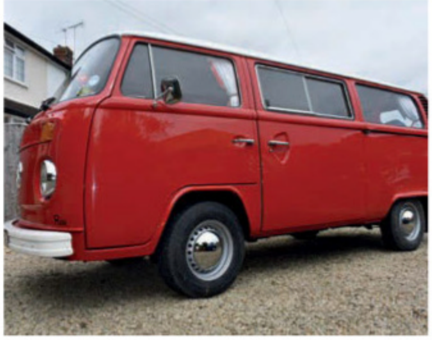
VOLKSWAGEN TYPE 2 CAMPER



1972, £39,995. Bay window Devon in original Niagara blue never sprayed or welded, owned for 28 years bought from 1st owner with original bill of sale and service history, always garaged, Ziebart rust protects from new, feature in recent magazines. Please call 07802866528, South East.

118600

VOLKSWAGEN CAMPERVAN



1972, 71000 miles, £18,000. 1972 late bay, bodywork totally restored no rot or rust anywhere. standard 1600cc engine .Please call 07414983907, South East.

118108

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We value your advertising and want to remind you be aware of scammers. Scammers are clever and can often seem genuine so please remember :

- Kelsey will **never** contact you to upsell your free advert to a paid for one.
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CURRENT LISTINGS

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF

£1,995. Automatic, MOT November 2023, Good tyres, always garaged. Please call 07927069352, South West.

117942

VOLKSWAGEN TRANSPORTER T30

2010, 122683 miles, £16,950. Fantastic window van Kombi convertion.Low mileage for year and the robust 2.5 engine,with gear driven cams and ancillaries, no belts! Engine bay under tray for reduced noise.Lots of service history. New turbo, injector and harness at 121,000 miles.11 months MOT with all advisories taken care of. New tyres, rear coated brake discs, pads, caliper seals, etc. New full service. Please call 07403433233, South East.

118551

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF

1999, 92000 miles, £1,700. Same family ownership since new. 12 months MOT. 92000 miles. FSH. New Tyres. . Please call 07801 480334, North West.

117625

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF

1996, 67000 miles, £3,500. Golf Mk 3 Cabriolet auto in red / charcoal cloth interior. Comes with box full of history inc original service pack, rear window sticker and number plates. Recent MOT, no advisories. Bodywork and electric hood in excellent condition. Please call 01652 678417 , Yorkshire and the Humber.

116041

VOLKSWAGEN CADDY

2012, 126000 miles, £6,500. 2.0 Litre Turbo Diesel. Unusual factory option - Offside sliding door. Fully colour-coded. Please call 07802701211, East Midlands.

118267

VOLKSWAGEN 1 LITRE

1966, 90707.0 miles, £5,000. 1300 Beetle. RH drive. Bodywork in super condition apart from some dents to front left wing. Back on the road in 2021 with new braking system, clutch, flywheel, starter motor, carb, fuel hoses, front bearings, tyres, battery. Call 07809604710. Please call 07809604710, East Midlands.

118695

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3 x Bays (1800h x 900w x 450d mm)	ALTK	£119.99	£143.99	£64.78	£23.99	£167.98
3 x Bays (1800h x 900w x 450d mm) with 8 x 33.5L Nestable Really Useful Boxes	ALTR	£169.99	£203.99	£88.77	£23.99	£227.98
3 x Bays (1800h x 900w x 600d mm)	ALTD	£149.99	£179.99	£79.18	£23.99	£203.98
4 x Bays (1800h x 900w x 450d mm)	ALTO	£154.99	£185.99	£92.37	£23.99	£209.98
4 x Bays (1800h x 900w x 600d mm)	ALTF	£199.99	£239.99	£105.57	£23.99	£263.98

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3 x Bays (1800h x 900w x **450d** mm) **Plus 1 x Workbench** (900h x 1200w x 600d mm)	AADH	£169.99	£203.99	£74.37	£23.99	£227.98
3 x Bays (1800h x 900w x **600d** mm) **Plus 1 x Workbench** (900h x 1200w x 600d mm)	ALSN	£204.99	£245.99	£82.77	£29.99	£275.98

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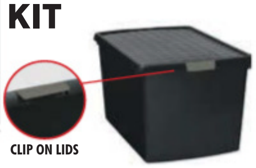

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